

## Iran, S. Arabia to exchange ambassadors

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran and Saudi Arabia, rivals rapidly improving their relations after the Gulf war, have agreed to exchange ambassadors, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Monday. The Iranian news agency (IRNA) said Mr. Velayati met his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal in Istanbul on the sidelines of a foreign ministers' meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). He quoted Mr. Velayati as saying afterwards that Tehran and Riyadh had agreed to appoint their respective ambassadors to each other, and that the two countries, which are the world's biggest oil exporters, resumed diplomatic ties in March after a three-year break which originated tensions created by Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

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## Rajavi denounces Iranian interference in Iraqi affairs

BAGHDAD (R) — The leader of the Iraqi opposition-in-exile, reappearing in the Iraqi media for the first time in two years, denounced Iranian interference in Iraq's internal affairs Monday. Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Baghdad-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq organisation, told an Iraqi leader that "this continued interference... (is) a clear act against peace and against the supreme interests of the Iranian people," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. He was meeting Izzat Ibrahim, the vice chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolution Command Council.

## Swiss advised against jobs in Kuwait

BERNE (AP) — Federal authorities said Monday they are cautioning Swiss against accepting jobs in Kuwait, where they would ostensibly replace Palestinians. A federal labour office spokesman issued the warning when asked to comment on bold-faced ads in Swiss newspapers in which a Kuwaiti employment agency is looking for English-speaking "secretaries, nurses, nannies, cooks, waiters" and other personnel. Applicants are asked to send passport details, pay a \$50 registration fee to the Kuwait-based agency and telephone, a Kuwait number for further information. Pay is promised to be "excellent." Dieter Grosen, a spokesman for the federal office, said that Kuwaiti agency did not ask for the required authority for its recruitment drive in Switzerland. Swiss officials had no background on the agency, he added. Bernard Heywood, identified in the ads as director of the agency, said in a telephone interview that the departure of many Palestinians had caused an acute shortage of personnel.

## French soldiers returned to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Two French soldiers who went missing in Iraq were returned to Kuwait Monday at a border crossing near the Abdali refugee camp. The two men told a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that they had not been mistreated. The ICRC negotiated their return. The men were identified as Chief Adjutant Jean-Claude Lamié, 42, and Adjutant Jean-Yves Sanchez, 37, assigned as technical assistants to the Kuwait air force. They disappeared near the border last Tuesday, French diplomats said. There has been no explanation from French officials here about what the two soldiers were doing near the border.

## Nigeria to renew ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Nigerian Minister of External Affairs Ike Nwachukwu said Monday his country would soon renew diplomatic relations with Israel. "My presence here will show clearly the willingness on our part to restore relations and I believe that will be done not too long from now," Mr. Nwachukwu told reporters after meeting Foreign Minister David Levy. He invited Mr. Levy to Nigeria, saying, "I believe when Mr. Levy comes on his visit he will cross the 'Ts' and do the 'Is' and that will be it." Mr. Levy said he would find time for a trip despite a schedule packed with preparations for an October Middle East peace conference, and the U.N. General Assembly which he is to attend.

## Arson suspected in Tehran fires

TEHRAN (AP) — Arson is suspected in at least one of the three fires in Tehran's main commercial district in a week, a fire-fighter said Monday. Commenting on the first blaze last Monday, which raged for seven hours, Mohammad Heydari said: "It is obvious to us that the fire was intentional." Investigators are continuing to look for clues. "But Mr. Heydari said, whose station is nearest the bazaar district in downtown Tehran, told the AP another fire Thursday that started in a warehouse full of rice and sponges was believed to have been accidental.

# PNC to meet in Algiers ahead of planned peace conference

### Baker ends Mideast shuttle after talks with Benjedid and offer to Libya to attend parley as observer

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Palestine National Council (PNC) is expected to meet in Algiers in September, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted as saying Monday. Algeria's state radio quoted Mr. Arafat as saying President Chaddi Benjedid had agreed to host the PNC meeting. Mr. Arafat conferred with Mr. Benjedid in Algiers at the weekend. The PNC is the highest authority in the Palestinian movement. It appoints the PLO Executive Committee and takes long-term policy decisions which are binding on the PLO until the next parliamentary meeting. It should meet once a year but the last session was in November 1988, when it declared an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. The meeting comes before the expected opening in October of a Middle East peace conference sponsored by Moscow and Washington. A new PNC meeting has been under discussion for months but was held up by disputes within the Palestinian movement over the allocation of seats. The PLO wants to bring the Mus-

lim fundamentalist movement Hamas into the council but PLO officials said Hamas, which is influential in the occupied Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, demanded 40 per cent of the seats. A PNC meeting would have to rule on Palestinian participation in the proposed peace talks, which remains the main obstacle to the talks taking place. The Arafat-Benjedid talks came ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to push his plan for the peace conference. Mr. Baker arrived Monday in Algiers and went into a meeting with Mr. Benjedid. Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, and other officials. He was to fly to Washington after the talks. Sources said that Mr. Arafat, who left Algiers late Sunday, will try to create a broad base to support the moderate stance towards the peace conference the PLO announced Sunday in Tunis. But as he arrived at Houari Boumedienne airport here Sunday, Mr. Arafat repeated his oft-stated view that Middle East peace is not possible without the Palestinians. "We are in favour of a just and global peace, but on the conditions that this is not realised at the expense of the Palestinians," he said. Mr. Arafat later told Algerian radio that the Palestinian struggle will

continue until the Palestinian flag flies over the mosques and churches of Jerusalem, and accused Israel of setting the conditions for the peace conference. The PLO meanwhile dissociated itself Monday from remarks by Arafat aide Bassam Abu Sharif, who said Sunday he expected a deal on Palestinian representation at a peace conference. An official PLO spokesman said Mr. Abu Sharif's remarks reflected his personal views, not those of the PLO. Mr. Abu Sharif, who often acts as a mouthpiece for the PLO chairman's most moderate positions, told a group of American reporters accompanying Secretary Baker: "No I don't think there is an obstacle that will be big enough that will prevent a Palestinian from attending." The PLO spokesman, quoted by the PLO news agency Wafa, said, "These statements do not represent the view of the PLO nor express its position. They are personal remarks that change only the author." Mr. Abu Sharif's remarks were at variance with a statement the same day to Reuters by Mr. Arafat, who said he would not compromise on having Arab East Jerusalem Palestinians at the conference. Israel has agreed to attend the conference only if such Palestinians

are not among the delegates. In a message to Chinese President Yang Shangkun Monday, Mr. Arafat reiterated that the PLO was determined to oppose Israeli attempts to exclude the PLO and Jerusalem from peace talks. Mr. Abu Sharif said on Monday the PLO was still awaiting an agreement with the United States on important points in U.N. Security Council resolutions. He said the points were Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the implementation of resolutions calling for self-determination for the Palestinians. Mr. Arafat also sent messages Monday to the secretary general of the World Council of Churches and Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, drawing their attention to the danger to Muslims and Christians from the Judaisation of Jerusalem. Mr. Baker suggested Monday that Libya would be welcome as an observer at the proposed peace conference. Mr. Baker wrapped up his 23-day trip abroad with the stopover in Algeria. An observer role for Libya is acceptable to the United States and would be "consistent with Israel's policy" as well, Mr. Baker said at a news conference. (Continued on page 5)

## 2 found killed in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A brother and another relative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Libya were found dead in the occupied West Bank Monday. The two men were abducted by unknown men from their homes in the village of Qabatiya Saturday, and their bodies were found Monday, dumped in the nearby town of Jenin, the reports said. An army official said Qabatiya's mukhtar notified authorities of the deaths. The case was under investigation, the official said. Reports identified one victim was Ali Ahmad Abu Rab, 34, the brother of the PLO's representative in Libya, Izzat Abu Rab. The second was Mohammed Najib Abu Rab, 29, a distant relative of the PLO official, the reports said. Also Monday, Israel Radio reported the army stepped up security for Hamas Ashraf, one of three Palestinians who met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last week to discuss proposed Middle East peace talks. The report came a day after the fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad, which rejects the U.S. peace initiative, issued death threats against Mrs. Ashraf and the other two negotiators, Faisal Hussaini and Zakariya Al Agha. The report said army troops were ordered to pass frequently by Mrs. Ashraf's West Bank home to deter attacks. Mr. Hussaini's home was placed under police guard earlier. Military sources said Monday they suspected militant Palestinians and Israelis were plotting attacks in the hope of sabotaging plans for a Middle East peace conference in October. They said Palestinians from left-wing and religious groups might attack Israeli targets, while militant Jews might attack Palestinians taking part in the peace efforts.

## Iraq admits it had germ warfare lab

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq admitted for the first time on Monday that it had conducted germ warfare experiments but said it ceased shortly after the start of the Gulf war crisis last year. "The Iraqi side has informed the (U.N.) inspection team that there is a laboratory for biological research for military purposes within a general research establishment," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told Iraqi newspapers. "Iraq dropped this biological research completely in autumn 1990 because of the possibility of an attack (by the United States and its allies)," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra quoted him as saying. "There is positively no biological activity for military purposes, for ammunition or weapons building," he added. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the team had visited the research site in question and that authorities presented "all information and fully cooperated with the team to facilitate its mission." Cooperation is a sensitive issue because of disclosures that Iraq had been less than candid with the first nuclear inspection terms. It was later learned that the country had a programme to enrich uranium, a process that is used in the making of atomic bombs. President George Bush and other Western leaders reacted strongly. Mr. Bush threatened to attack Iraq again if it did not come clean on all its nuclear secrets. Under U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, Iraq must fully disclose its capability to produce nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. If they exist, they must be destroyed, along with Iraq's ballistic missiles. David Kelly, the chief inspector of the germ warfare team, said Sunday that it was receiving "full cooperation" from Iraqi authorities. He added that the Baghdad government had declared Iraq has no biological weapons. "So far it's actually been excellent," Mr. Kelly told Reuters. "We have had a warm reception. Every request I have made has been met or they have said they will meet it." Mr. Kelly, whose 28-member team is drawn from nine countries, said they had spent the past two days investigating one site. Neither he nor the Iraqi spokesman identified the site. Sources close to the team, which has 1.5 tonnes of equipment, said analysis of samples taken would take time. The head of another team of U.N. inspectors hunting for evidence of an Iraqi nuclear weapons programme said last week that Iraq was being "very forthcoming." David Kay, who is leading the fourth nuclear inspection team to visit Iraq under the terms of ceasefire, said there had been a change

## Mubarak ends visit to Libya

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak returned to Egypt Monday after a two-day visit to Libya during which he discussed the Middle East peace process with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. Mr. Mubarak did not make any statements on arrival at the Nuzha airport in the city of Alexandria, 240 kilometres northwest of Cairo where the president spends his summers. The first day of talks between the two leaders focused on a U.S. proposal for a Middle East peace conference and the second day was dedicated to bilateral issues. Libya is the only country that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not include in his tour of North Africa where he discussed with leaders there their possible role in the peace talks. He visited Morocco and Tunisia over the weekend and was in Algeria Monday. The United States has no relations with Libya which it accuses of sponsoring terrorism. Diplomats said Mr. Mubarak's unannounced trip appeared to be intended to persuade Colonel Qaddafi to take a positive rather than a destructive attitude towards the U.S.-led peace efforts. They said Mr. Mubarak's visit was also aimed to cushion Libyan anger at the U.S. Treasury Department which warned that Americans could be fined or jailed if they did business with 12 companies and 21 named individuals with Libyan connections. On Sunday, Libya accused Washington of violating international law and pursuing unwavering hostility towards it. Mr. Mubarak, who arrived in Tripoli with top aides and several cabinet ministers Sunday, toured Libyan agricultural projects before having talks with Col. Qaddafi in a bedroom tent. They held another round of talks Sunday night to discuss the Middle East peace process, newspapers said.

## Formal probe launched into 1980 hostage release

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Congress' Democratic leaders Monday announced a formal investigation into charges that the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign schemed with Iranians to delay the release of American hostages until after the presidential election. House of Representatives Speaker Thomas Foley and Senate majority leader George Mitchell said the investigation would be carried out by the House foreign affairs and Senate foreign relations committees. "These allegations are both persistent and disturbing," the two leaders said in a joint statement. "They have led us to conclude, along with former presidents (Jimmy) Carter and (Ronald) Reagan, and President (George) Bush, that these allegations should be laid to rest once and for all." Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana will lead the House of Representatives investigation. Sen.

Terry Sanford, of North Carolina, will head the effort in the Senate. "We have no conclusive evidence of wrongdoing, but the seriousness of the allegations and the weight of circumstantial information compel an effort to establish the facts," speaker Foley and Mr. Mitchell said in their statement. Mr. Foley told reporters that he and Mr. Mitchell accepted President Bush's word that he had nothing to do with the allegations. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush has mixed feelings about the investigation. "The president's always said that if there's legitimate evidence, and real reasons for an investigation, then they ought to get to the bottom of it. If it's just what you call a witchhunt of some kind, then it's foolish." House Republican leader Bob Michel of Illinois said he thought

the investigation would be a waste of time and money. "I think we'll be wasting an awful lot of money on a charade," he told reporters. "There's nothing there and the people back home don't give two hoots about it." Asked if he thought the Democrats were holding the investigation for political reasons, Mr. Michel said, "There's no question about it." But Mr. Foley responded by saying, "It's not a waste of time to put these allegations to rest." Gary Sick, a member of Mr. Carter's National Security Council (NSC) staff, alleged in a New York Times article in April that Reagan campaign officials met with Iranian during 1980 to prevent a hostage release before the Nov. 4 elections. The 52 American hostages were freed by Iran minutes after Mr. Reagan was sworn in as president on Jan. 20, 1981 ending Mr. Carter's four-year term. The hostages had been held since Oct. 5,

1979 when they were captured by militants who seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran. Mr. Carter's failure to win release of the hostages was seen as a major factor in his overwhelming loss to Mr. Reagan and his vice-presidential running mate Bush. "In the course of hundreds of interviews, in the United States, Europe and the Middle East, I have been told repeatedly that individuals associated with the Reagan-Bush campaign of 1980 met secretly with Iranian officials to delay the release of the American hostages until after the presidential election," Mr. Sick wrote. "For this favour, Iran was rewarded with a substantial supply of arms from Israel," he said. Mr. Sick said Reagan's staff was fearful of an "October surprise" that could swing the election to Mr. Carter. (Continued on page 5)

## Yemen reports large oil strike

BAHRAIN (AP) — The biggest oil-production well in Yemen has been struck in a concession area held by Canadian Ory, Yemen's Deputy Oil Minister Ahmad Qaid Barakat says. An official of the state-run Yemen Oil Organisation said Monday that the strike was "encouraging" but declined to give figures. The new discovery lies in the 35,500-square-kilometre South Masilah concession in the Hadramaut province of southern Yemen, according to the official. Mubarak Bamahmoud, Mr. Bamahmoud reached by telephone in Sanaa from Bahrain, said final results of test runs will be known at the end of 1991. But Mr. Barakat, in a statement published Sunday in a weekly government paper called September 26, said oil flowed at a rate of 10,000 barrels per day from the spudded well and that it was "the largest producing oil well in Yemen to date." Mr. Barakat said the highest rate of production from a well in Yemen so far had been 8,500 barrels per day, recorded in one of the first wells spudded by the U.S. Hunt Oil Company in its North Yemen Mared basin concession in 1984.



Prince Hassan meets World Bank team: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Monday a World Bank technical team currently visiting the Kingdom (photo above). Discussions in the meeting centred on developing the science and technology sector in Jordan and means to promote national exports to new markets. The delegation praised the standard of Jordanian products and reaffirmed the bank's policy of helping the development of national industries and the science and technology sectors (Petra photo).

# Jordan urges OIC to seek an end to sanctions on Iraq

## Kingdom exerting efforts to heal rift in Arab and Islamic ranks — Ensour

ISTANBUL (Petra) — Jordan Monday called for an end to the economic embargo which, it said, is threatening the lives of 150,000 Iraqi children in the coming few months due to severe food and medicine shortages. "Jordan appeals to the Islamic and Arab countries to end their differences resulting from the Gulf crisis and reestablish solidarity that can help the Arabs and Muslims overcome problems and build bridges of cooperation," said Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour. In an address to the Islamic foreign ministers' conference here, the minister said that "the Arabs and Muslims have a sacred duty towards ending the embargo on Iraq, whose children, women and sick people are facing real danger of death and whose food and medical supplies are running out." Dr. Ensour said new world blocs are emerging at a time when the world community is shaping a new world order. "This places on the Arab and Muslim countries historic responsibilities and calls for close cooperation and serious efforts to deal with regional problems," he said. Referring to the situation in occupied Palestine, the minister said that the Holy City of Jerusalem "calls out to the conscience of the Islamic nations for help."

He also said the unresolved Palestine problem was impeding the Arab and Islamic nations' endeavours to attain scientific and technological progress. Israel, the minister said, has exploited the new developments in international relations and succeeded in "rallying support for world Zionism at a time when the Arabs and Muslims are in total disarray." The Gulf crisis, the minister added, has revealed "the presence of a dangerous weakness in Arab and Islamic nations' relations and within the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)." In view of its geographic location and its relations with Arab and Islamic countries, Jordan has been seeking to build relations with Arab and Muslim countries on the basis of mutual respect and to solve conflicts through peaceful means, the minister said. At present the Kingdom is seeking to heal the rift among Islamic countries resulting from the Gulf crisis and is building bridges of cooperation among Arab and Islamic nations, especially with the Palestinian people who are exposed to real danger under Israeli occupation, he said. Dr. Ensour referred to recent reports about the deteriorating economic and social conditions in

the occupied Arab territories resulting from the Gulf war, and said that the Palestinians were facing the "dual threat" of economic destruction and the influx of thousands of Jewish settlers. "Jordan calls for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab land in implementation of international legitimacy," the foreign minister said. The Gulf crisis, he said, has adversely affected the Palestine issue. "The Palestinian people are now facing a serious situation; it is the duty of the Arab and Islamic nations to extend a helping hand to the oppressed Palestinians," he said. Jordan, he said, insists that U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 be implemented in full and that Israel's occupation be terminated from all Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem. Jordan, he added, seeks to exchange land for peace and will continue to seek peace based on justice and international legitimacy. Referring to domestic issues, Dr. Ensour said that the Kingdom was going ahead with plans to enhance the process of democracy and human rights and to consolidate civil and political rights and political pluralism.

# Panel chief says Security Council dragging feet over war damages

GENEVA (AP) — The head of a U.N. panel studying how much Iraq should pay in damages for its occupation of Kuwait said Monday that a lack of consensus in the Security Council has hampered the group's work. The official, Belgian diplomat Philippe Berg, said this is because the Security Council had failed to set a ceiling for what share of future oil revenue Iraq should be told to pay into an as yet empty U.N.-administered fund. The U.N. Compensation Commission, a subsidiary of the Security Council, can suggest the exact percentage to be contributed by Iraq only after the council sets a maximum, he said. "Lacking a decision by the Security Council on the ceiling, we could not make any progress on this issue," Mr. Berg, head of the commission's 15-nation governing council, told a news conference. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has suggested a 30-per cent share. Four of the five permanent Security Council members — Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China — have seemed ready to agree. The United States held out for a higher proportion in the past and most recently has called the 30-per cent figure the absolute minimum. Allowing Iraq to resume oil exports would require a decision by the U.N. Sanctions Commit-

tee. The compensation panel finished its first two-week meeting Friday. It agreed that claims by needy individuals should get priority. Iraq returning gold: Iraq Monday began transferring millions of dollars in gold bars taken from Kuwait's central bank during the occupation, U.N. officials said in Kuwait City. The operation in the remote Saudi border outpost of Arar was supervised by a special 23-member United Nations team, including stevedores, packers, security men and two gold specialists from Austria. On hand at Arar airport at the start of the process were 10 representatives each from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, said one U.N. officer reached by telephone. "Everything is going on fine," is all he would say about the transfer, noting that it could take up to 40 days. The governor of Kuwait's central bank, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, was quoted in the pro-government Sawt Al Kuwait newspaper Monday as saying processing the shipments would take time because each bar has to be tested. "It is not easy to receive these bars," Sheikh Salem told Sawt Al Kuwait. "They will have to be

tested one by one to make sure they are the right weight and that the gold is pure." He told the newspaper it might take 12 days. The reason for the difference was not immediately clear. It was also not clear when the gold would be moved to Kuwait. The gold bars — along with Kuwaiti currency and gold and silver coins — were taken from the central bank vaults during Iraq's seven-month occupation. Sheikh Salem said the gold was being trucked overland from Baghdad. Kuwait and Iraq in June agreed that the quantity of missing gold totalled 3,216 bars. Sheikh Salem said that each bar weighed 13 kilograms. Iraq also has agreed to return Kuwaiti currency taken during the occupation. He estimated the face value of the missing currency at about \$260 million, although Iraq has said it has just \$170 million in bank notes. The currency now is worthless and will be destroyed, he added. The old banknotes were cancelled by the Kuwaiti government during its exile in Saudi Arabia, and new Kuwaiti banknotes were issued after Kuwait's liberation by allied forces on Feb. 26. Sheikh Salem said Kuwait also expected gold and silver coins to be returned by Iraq. He valued them at about 500,000 dinars, or more than \$1.5 million.

## Saud: Israel to blame if peace efforts fail

ISTANBUL (R) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Monday the Arabs have done their part to make peace with Israel and the Jewish state should take the blame if a Middle East peace conference did not materialise.

"We are at a historical crossroads. The Arabs have chosen the path of peace. History will not have mercy upon those who stand as a stumbling block in this way," Prince Saud Al Faisal told a meeting of foreign ministers from the 45-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"The Israeli party is still obstructing the process of peace, refusing to respond to the call of peace and must be held responsible for this," he said in a speech.

He said that Israel's policy of building new settlements in the occupied territories was "a major obstacle to current efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East."

Riyadh has backed efforts by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to convene a Middle East peace conference co-sponsored by the Soviet Union, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt have agreed to attend the conference.

Israel has agreed to attend the talks if Washington can come up with an acceptable formula for who will represent the Palestinians. The issue is seen as the main obstacle in the way of a conference.

Israel refuses to sit down with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

It also opposes the presence of Palestinian delegates from Arab East Jerusalem.

Prince Saud said Jerusalem, apparently referring to the eastern part of the city, was part of the Israeli-occupied territories. He did not elaborate.

He also called for international action to pressure Israel into withdrawing from South Lebanon.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the OIC

meeting Palestinians could gain nothing from the proposed peace conference and should intensify their uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"In our view, only Israel stands to gain from the negotiations," he said.

"Even in the most optimistic assessment, the peace conference could not contain any gains for the Palestinian cause," Velayati said, adding:

"We find the future of Palestine as gruesome and vague."

The OIC meeting is being attended by a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation and ministers from all Arab countries involved in the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Velayati told the meeting: "We believe an honourable settlement of the Palestinian problem is only possible through a deepening of the intifada, and after a strong and united front has been formed."

He said that for the United States, which is pressing for an October peace conference, "Israeli interests reign supreme."

He said the divisions in the Islamic community caused by the Gulf crisis had allowed Israel to harden its position on all questions, including territory, migration and Palestinian representation in talks.

Even if a Middle East conference were convened, he said it "would not lead to the complete realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people."

"So long as the Muslim Palestinian nation does not regain its rights, peace will not return to this region."

Mr. Velayati said time was on the Palestinians' side as Israel had never been nor would ever be able to crush the intifada, which began in December 1987.

"The movement has not been suppressed despite the resort to most violent methods," he said.



Rescue workers and paramedics remove charred bodies from the bombed Al Ameriyah shelter in February 1991 (File photo)

## Destroyed bombed shelter stands as memorial in Baghdad

By Walter Puziam  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The blackened concrete walls of the Ameriyah air raid shelter still stand as a memorial to the victims of the Gulf war.

The only light in the cavernous, ground-floor chamber of the shelter comes from the gaping hole in the roof where bombs crashed through in early February, incinerating hundreds of people who had sought refuge inside.

Rays of light illuminate the severed, gnarled steel bars that once reinforced the three-metre thick concrete ceiling. A sheet of steel that lined the ceiling is peeled back in a giant curl.

Light shines on a four-metre wide crater in the cement floor where the bombs continued their deadly path into the underground chambers.

As many as 200 people may still be buried in those rooms. The Iraqi government says 394 victims were removed from the shelter, but residents of the surrounding neighbourhood say 600 people were in the shelter the night of the attack.

"Didn't those satellites see civilians were using it?" asked Taleb Abbas, who lives across the street from the shelter.

He said nine of his family members, including his brother's wife and children, were burned to death in the bombing.

The U.S. military has said its aircraft bombed the shelter because it was used as a communications centre by the Iraqi army.

Mr. Abbas, 33, said he was stationed in Kuwait as part of the Iraqi army.

He was on home leave at the time of the Feb. 13 bombing.

He said his sister, sister-in-law and seven nieces and nephews were spending the night in the shelter while he was at home with his wife, brother and elderly mother.

About 4:30 a.m., they heard the sounds of aircraft.

"Suddenly, there was a big explosion. We could tell it was nearby. Most of the windows were shattered," Mr. Abbas said. "We ran downstairs. There was another explosion that smashed the rest of the windows."

He looked out the kitchen window and saw smoke coming from the roof of the shelter.

"I told my brother, 'look. I think it was the shelter that was hit'."

They ran across the street.

"I stumbled over two bodies, two women. The door was locked from the inside. Nobody else could get out. We couldn't get in," Mr. Abbas said. "I realised then that we had lost them all. I started screaming."

Fire brigades soon arrived, but the doors to the shelter had been locked before the raid and rescue workers could not immediately get inside.

"All of us were helpless. We couldn't do anything," Mr. Abbas said. "No one could get in until people from the Department of Military Industry came. They began to bring out bodies. They were all burned, badly burned."

Most of the dead were buried beyond recognition and identifying the casualties took days.

Those who could be identified were buried by their families. The others were placed in a mass grave.

## Bush voices confidence over Cyprus settlement

NICOSIA (AP) — President George Bush Monday sent a message to the president of Cyprus expressing confidence that progress can be achieved towards reunification of the war-divided island.

The message was a follow-up to last Friday's announcement by Mr. Bush that Greek Prime Minister Constantinos Mitsotakis and Turkish President Turgut Ozal had agreed to discuss the future of Cyprus at a meeting in the United States in September, provided there was an adequate narrowing of differences meantime.

An official Cyprus government statement quoted Mr. Bush as saying in his message that he was confident that "we can create progress, hold the meeting and create a framework to settle the dispute that divides Cyprus."

Mr. Bush was further quoted as saying "if I am right, Mr. President, I look forward to welcoming you to the United States in September."

The Bush message was delivered to Mr. Vassiliou by Nelson Ledsky, the U.S. State Department's Cyprus coordinator, during a two-hour meeting.

The official announcement said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker also sent a letter to Mr. Vassiliou. Mr. Baker was quoted as saying that he was following Cyprus events closely, particularly United Nations efforts to narrow differences in advance of a possible meeting chaired by the secretary-general.

The lengthy Vassiliou-Ledsky meeting, coupled with the Bush and Baker messages, heightened speculation of a likely breakthrough in reunification efforts.

Mr. Vassiliou Saturday welcomed Mr. Bush's statement as "a very significant development." But he added that progress would depend on a change of policy by the Turkish side.

The Cyprus government statement said the Bush message underlined "that both the United States and the United Nations are now in a much improved position to press for progress."

Mr. Bush also stated that every effort will be made to narrow differences before the September meeting.

Mr. Bush further described the current momentum as very encouraging. He stressed that the United States keeps an open mind and is ready to discuss with all parties concerned the question of their own role in the September meeting.

He added that the United States will be guided on this issue by the U.N. secretary-general's view of what would best promote a Cyprus settlement.

This was seen as a reference by Mr. Bush to a basic disagreement between the two sides over the participants at the September meeting.

The Turkish view, supported by Mr. Bush in earlier statements, is that this should be confined to Greece, Turkey and the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The Greek side demands a wider meeting with the participation of Greece, Turkey, the Cyprus government, plus representatives of the two island communities and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The four-party meeting is seen as an attempt to elevate the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

## Cabinet members rally around Shamir and warn Sharon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Senior cabinet members Monday warned Hawikish Housing Minister Ariel Sharon to stop personal attacks on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the prime minister's role in the peace process.

Mr. Sharon is the most outspoken opponent of Israel's participation in proposed Middle East peace talks, and in Sunday's stormy cabinet session accused Israeli leaders of being "amateur negotiators."

The cabinet voted 16-3 to approve Mr. Shamir's proposal that Israel attend the talks, provided that the dispute over Palestinian negotiators is settled. Mr. Sharon was among those who voted "No."

Police Minister Ronnie Milo, who belongs to Mr. Shamir's inner circle, said he could understand emotional outbursts in the heat of debate, but suggested that Mr. Sharon would not tolerate additional attacks.

"If there are troubles, the prime minister certainly will have to express his opinion and prevent them so the government can function," Mr. Milo said on Israel Radio Monday.

The Haaretz newspaper said several senior cabinet ministers suggested that Mr. Shamir fire Mr. Sharon unless Mr. Sharon stops his attacks. It did not name the ministers, and Mr. Milo said he was not among them.

Mr. Sharon, who was the architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, claims the U.S.-proposed peace conference is more likely to bring war than result in an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Foreign Minister David Levy sharply rebuked Mr. Sharon in an interview with Israel Radio, calling his comments "unsubstantial, frustration bordering on audacity and arrogance."

"We have achieved positions that everyone thought impossible just a year ago. Israel is marching on the path of peace under the best possible opening conditions," Mr. Levy added.

Mr. Sharon alleged that Mr. Shamir had reversed earlier government decisions against allowing U.N. and European participation in peace talks. He asserted that "Syria hasn't undergone any changes," in its policy towards Israel.

"The United States is leading us into a very dangerous process," Mr. Sharon told Israel Television. He maintained that the proposed talks were a "Syrian trick."

He said the government put on "an amazing show of weakness in the conduct of negotiations... we in essence gave in on all our demands, because of the amateur way the negotiations were conducted."

Mr. Sharon, who rarely displays emotion, said during the

## China urges Israeli flexibility

BEIJING (Agencies) — China Monday welcomed Israel's conditional acceptance of a Middle East peace conference but urged it to adopt a more flexible position to ensure its success.

"We welcome any effort that will help to advance the peace process in the Middle East," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"It is hoped that the Israeli government will take a more flexible position so as to facilitate the comprehensive, just and enduring solution to the Middle East issue," he said.

Under pressure from Washington and Moscow, Israel conditionally agreed Thursday to attend a peace conference if U.S. Secretary of State James Baker could solve the sensitive issue of who would represent the Palestinians.

Israel says it will not sit down with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It also opposes involvement of Palestinian delegates from Arab East Jerusalem.

China, one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, has recently adopted a higher profile in the Middle East by taking part in a regional arms control meeting in Paris in June and sending Premier Li Peng on a six-nation Middle East tour the same month.

Beijing does not have diplomatic links with Israel, although it does recognise the State of Palestine.

**Labourites visiting China**

An Israeli Labour Party delegation including two parliamentarians is making a low-profile visit to China, Chinese and Israeli sources confirmed Monday.

It is the latest in a series of quiet, semi-official contacts between the two countries.

A Middle East peace settlement was believed to be among topics discussed by the delegation, which arrived last week and is staying nearly two weeks.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said the Israeli group was invited by the China Association for International Understanding, a semi-official group headed by a senior Communist Party member, Li Yimang.

The ministry referred to the Israelis as "personages for peace" but refused to say whom they were meeting or what was being discussed.

Israeli sources in Beijing, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the group members were Lova Eliev and Eli Dayan, members of Israel's parliament, Israel's chief of the Labour Party's international relations department, and Masha Lahavsky, a board member of Israel's largest trade union.

The Hong Kong newspaper, the South China Morning Post, said they were to meet Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang, but the Chinese refused to confirm such a meeting was to take place.

The director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Reuven Merhav, made what China called a private visit to Beijing in March. He also reportedly met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in New York in 1990.

Neither side has revealed what was discussed.

China opened a branch of its state-run travel office in Tel Aviv last year, establishing the first Chinese government presence in Israel. Israel has opened an office of its academy of science and humanities in Beijing.

The two countries have agreed to let each other's state-run news organisations exchange offices.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

**UNRWA protests to Israel**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The United Nations agency looking after Palestinian refugees accused Israeli paramilitary police on Monday of tearing down two of its employees. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) protested to Israeli authorities charging police tossed a teargas grenade through the open window of a parked U.N. car at Balata refugee camp near the West Bank town of Nablus Thursday. An UNRWA spokesman said the army had yet to reply. The workers in the car, one Norwegian and a Palestinian, were overcome by gas and a car phone was burned, the spokesman said. He said the police action was unprovoked and deliberate.

**'Pressure will not help hostages'**

BEIRUT (AP) — State Minister Abdullah Al Amin was quoted Monday as saying that economic pressure on Lebanon by the United States and Britain to obtain the release of their hostages was unfair and would not help free the captives.

"These countries which are aware that we are not responsible for this matter should not put pressure on us economically and try to prevent us from receiving aid or loans," he said. "Pressuring us will not be beneficial at all in obtaining the release of those hostages," the minister said in an interview with the Al Sharq daily. Mr. Amin is state minister without portfolio and head of the Baath Party in Lebanon. He was responding to remarks made by British Ambassador David Tatham Wednesday in which he said it would be very difficult to revive the Lebanese economy to take off until the problem of the foreign hostages is resolved. Lebanese officials have said the continued detention of the hostages in Lebanon is making it hard to raise and from western countries to rebuild the war-shattered economy.

**Germans to search for kidnappers**

BONN (R) — Two German police officers have flown to Turkey to help in the search for 10 German tourists abducted from a campsite last week, the federal criminal office said Monday. Four armed men took the Germans — four women, three men, two young girls and a boy — from their campsite by a lake in the crater of Mount Nemrut, 800 kilometres east of Ankara. "It is still unclear what the motives of the perpetrators are," the Wiesbaden-based criminal office said. "We still do not know whether there are political reasons or whether ransom demands are to be expected." A Turkish official said Sunday security forces suspected the Marxist Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), whose seven-year campaign for independence from Ankara has claimed more than 3,200 lives, but he added the abductors might be "mere robbers."

**5 killed as rockets hit Afghan town**

ISLAMABAD (R) — Guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan fired rockets into the eastern town of Mehtar Lam Sunday, killing five people, the official Kabul Radio said. Government forces killed 16 rebels in a counter-attack on their positions, said the broadcast, monitored in Pakistan. Mehtar Lam is

the capital of Laghman province. Leaders of the Mujahideen guerrillas gave guarded approval to a United Nations peace framework in Islamabad Tuesday. But they vowed to continue their 13-year armed struggle to force President Najibullah to step down.

**Polisario reports Moroccan raid**

NICOSIA (R) — Polisario guerrillas accused Morocco overnight of mounting an air raid against an oasis in the Western Sahara, where an informal ceasefire has been in effect for nearly two years. A guerrilla communiqué broadcast on Algiers Radio said the Moroccan air force staged a "massive attack" on Tifariti, a waterhole in the northeast of the territory outside the area controlled by the Moroccan army. But the communiqué said Polisario was willing to regard the raid as "an isolated incident." It gave no details of casualties or damage. Polisario has fought for independence since Spain ended its colonial rule in the mainly desert Western Sahara 15 years ago without agreeing with the inhabitants who should take over. Both sides have accepted a United Nations plan for a referendum next year. No serious fighting had been reported since November 1989. Tifariti is about 15 kilometres from Mauritania and about 300 kilometres from the Atlantic coast. Polisario, which has its main bases in Algeria, said the oasis was 100 kilometres from the defensive wall built by the Moroccan army as a shield against guerrilla raids.

**Karami: Elections by spring**

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Omar Karame said Monday parliamentary elections in Lebanon, the first since 1972, would take place soon, preferably by next spring. "The parliamentary elections are near," Mr. Karame told reporters at this headquarters in Beirut. "In my opinion, the elections must be conducted next spring at the latest." The last parliamentary elections in Lebanon were held 19 years ago. The outbreak of civil war in 1975 prevented elections for a new assembly in 1976 and parliament has had its mandate renewed at four-year intervals ever since. Under an agreement to end the war, the number of seats in parliament has been increased from 99 to 108 — half for Christians and half for Muslims. The term of the current parliament expires in 1991.

**Militants attack Pakistani offices**

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani police arrested more than 300 Shiite Muslim militants who attacked government offices in Islamabad Monday with sticks, catapults and stones, police officials said. They said the detainees, all members of the militant Tehrik Nifaz Figh-I-Jafria (TNFJ) organisation, were accused of rioting and damaging public property. The militants had earlier assembled outside parliament for a demonstration to mark the third anniversary of the assassination of their religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini. The demonstrators accused the government of failing to punish Mr. Khomeini's killers. Later they attacked nearby government secretariat blocks with stones and damaged windows and cars before police broke up the demonstration with baton-charges and rounded up most of the participants, eyewitnesses said. Shiites are a minority in Pakistan whose population of more than 113 million is dominated by Sunni Muslims.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
18:30	Sidra Crouche
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
20:45	Musicians in Jordan
21:10	Our House
21:40	News in English
22:20	Colombo
PRAYER TIMES	
04:22	Fajr
05:59	Dhuhr (Summer)
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	Asr
19:34	Maghreb
21:01	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidat: Tel. 810740.	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 683326.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674140.	
De La Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772681.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823624, 659232.	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	17/28
Aqaba	24/35
Deserta	18/34
Jordan Valley	23/35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman	

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
man 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Saad Tawfiq	788285
Dr. Ayman Abdul Jabbar	614222
Dr. Anwar Agabawi	642696
Dr. Khalil Abdul Gader	795392
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	670555
Nairosh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Radwan Al Saad	(—)
Al Shuraa pharmacy	(275825)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rashid Al Bouri	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	383417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Police Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	121
Directorate assistance	010230
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	771111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
HOSPITALS	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:15	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30	Amman (RJ)
06:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:50	Mascat, Dubai (RJ)
07:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:10	London (RJ)
07:20	New York, Montreal (RJ)
07:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
07:45	Belgrade (RJ)
08:00	Tripoli (RJ)
08:30	Mascat (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:15	Amman (RJ)
06:30	Brussels, London (RJ)
06:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:50	Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
07:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:10	Rome (RJ)
07:20	Geneva, Paris (RJ)
07:30	Moscow (RJ)
07:45	Larnaca (RJ)
08:00	Cairo (RJ)
08:15	Amman (RJ)
08:30	Amman (RJ)
08:45	Amman (RJ)
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23:45	Amman (RJ)
24:00	Amman (RJ)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
01:00	Cairo (RJ)
01:15	Khartoum (RJ)
01:30	Bucharest (RJ)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.	
Apples	600/500
Apricots	700/600
Bananas	500/400
Bananas (Mukammal)	400/300
Beans	300/200
Cabbages	300/200
Carrots	100/80
Cauliflowers	180/120
Corn	200/150
Cucumbers (large)	120/80
Cucumbers (small)	200/180
Eggplants	200/180
Garlic	300/200
Grapes	350/300
Green peas	300/200
Lemons (green)	400/300
Lemons (yellow)	300/200
Marrows (large)	150/100
Marrows (small)	200/150
Onions (dry)	300/200
Onions (wet)	400/300
Peas	300/200
Peppers (hot)	200/150
Peppers (sweet)	300/200
Potatoes	200/150
Seas	200/150
Sweet melons	200/150
Tomatoes	200/150
Watermelons	200/150

## Symposium on industrial investments recommends setting up reference centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium which discussed investments in small industrial projects and their role in promoting the national economy concluded its work in Amman Monday.

The symposium, which was organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) called to recommendations issued at the conclusion of its meetings for setting up a reference centre whose task will be gathering information on and classifying small industries which have a chance of success.

The symposium recommended establishing an ad-hoc bureau to be affiliated to the reference centre. The bureau will be receiving investors from all economic and social sectors of the society and provide them with consultation on small projects.

The symposium also called for setting up a data bank that will make available information on industrial studies and marketing prospects.

Participants at the seminar called for adopting a clear-cut method for classifying small industrial projects and establishing a marketing establishment to support these projects.

The seminar also called for amending the investment law and for forming a committee, comprising representatives of the JEA, IDB, the Development and Employment Fund and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, to conduct feasibility studies on small projects.

## House to discuss draft laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Taher Masri and Cabinet members.

The meeting will discuss the House's Financial Committee resolutions on a draft law endorsing a loan agreement between the Jordanian and the Belgian governments and on an amendment to the extra tax law for the year 1991.

The Legal Committee met Monday and decided to revise some of the articles in the amended state security court law for 1991. The committee will meet Tuesday to resume discussion of the remaining articles of the state security court law and the higher court of justice law of 1989.

The Palestine and the Occupied Arab Territories Committee at the House also met Monday under its Chairman Abdul Aziz Jaber. The committee decided to follow up recommendations by the House on citizens from the Gaza Strip who are living in Jordan.

Discussed at the meeting were the issues of providing the Gazans with education, issuing them driving licences and temporary passports to facilitate their travels abroad and including them in a health care scheme.

The committee decided to form a sub-committee that will meet the prime minister and the minister of interior for discussion of these matters.

In another development, the House's Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights Committee will hold a meeting Tuesday morning and the Administrative Committee will meet Wednesday. Both committees will discuss issues listed on their agendas.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday inspects a project for the restoration of an ancient Roman road in Madaba (Petra photo)

## Queen inspects restoration project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday evening inspected a project for the restoration of an ancient Roman road in Madaba, some 30 kilometres south of Amman, and was briefed on work going on at the site.

Archaeologists and special teams working in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities are also restoring sites with mosaics, abounding in the Madaba District, dating back to the Roman and Byzantine eras.

The Queen visited a number of old Madaba houses, bought by the Ministry of Tourism to create a school for teaching local citizens in the skill of restoring mosaics and frescoes in Jordan.

The project, expected to take a year to be completed, is being financed by the Italian, Canadian, and U.S. governments which are providing specialists and offering Jordanians scholarships in this type of work.

The Jordanians are to be trained in this particular skill in Italy and come back to train others in the same field, according to Ministry of Tourism officials.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is financing the creation of a special museum to house mosaic plates and floors while the Canadian government is helping to finance premises which will serve as a school for training technicians.

The Queen was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and ministry Secretary General Nasir Attallah, as well as the director of the Department of Antiquities and the ambassadors of Canada, Italy and the United States in Jordan.

According to a press release,

USAID is providing \$200,000 for the excavation, preservation and protection of the mosaics at the Apostles' Church in Madaba.

USAID has selected the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman to undertake the project due to the archaeological importance of these sites and ACOR's experience with similar construction projects at Umm Qais and Pella.

The project will be carried out, it said, in conjunction with the development of the mosaic school.

The purpose of the Madaba project is to create a model for employment of local labourers in cultural preservation projects.

At these two sites, 75 to 100 local workers will be employed for the next year. The project will be closely monitored for its economic effects by USAID in the hope that it will be the first of many such projects throughout the Kingdom.

## Premier, provincial governors stress need for decentralisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri chaired a meeting at the Interior Ministry Monday to discuss the responsibilities of provincial governors and Jordan's economic policies.

Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul said in a statement after the meeting that the prime minister had focused attention on problems of concern to local communities and on solutions for such problems.

The prime minister emphasised the need to implement the decentralisation system in local governments and to develop provincial governor's duties and handling of social and economic problems, said the minister in his statement.

Enhancing the concept of decentralisation in governorates

was in implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri and a manifestation of the government's keenness to deal with various issues facing the local communities.

The prime minister has briefed the provincial governors on the realities in the Arab and international arena and the Kingdom's political and economic policies in the current stage," Mr. Esboul said.

Later, the prime minister chaired a meeting at the Interior Ministry to discuss questions related to dealing with the drought in Jordan.

The meeting, attended by a government-appointed drought

committee, discussed the question of providing animal feed to the stockbreeders and distribution of the commodity to various beneficiaries in Jordan, said the minister.

Agreement has been reached to conduct a new counting of cattle and sheep in Jordan and to locate their areas prior to working out a plan that would ensure fair distribution of animal feed to the beneficiaries, said the minister.

The minister said that the treasury subsidises annually the purchase of animal feed at the rate of JD 12 million of a total allocation of JD 21 million earmarked by the government to deal with problems pertaining to drought and agricultural issues.

The drought committee, which is chaired by the interior minister, groups the ministers of agriculture, industry, trade and supply, finance, water and irrigation and the director of the Jordan Co-operation Organisation (JCO).

In a separate development, Mr. Masri visited the Army Headquarters and held a meeting with Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb to discuss the general situation in the Middle East and new developments in the region.

Mr. Masri and Gen. Abu Taleb reviewed the Kingdom's standing policies with regard to the region's issues, and international relations as emphasised by His Majesty King Hussein, and the role the Armed Forces can play in protecting the country's security and stability.

## Survey shows only 43% of Jordanians read Arabic dailies

AMMAN (J.T.) — A survey conducted by Dr. Abdul Razzak Bani Hani from the University of Jordan and Mohammad Shreideh from Yarmouk University on the role of the press has revealed that 43 per cent of Jordanian people read the daily papers on regular basis.

"This means that 57 per cent of the people of Jordan are deprived of a constant flow of information," said the two researchers in their study entitled "An Analytical Study on the Effectiveness of the Press From the Readers' perspective."

The survey revealed that 86.6 per cent of the newspaper readers believe that the credibility of the local press is below the acceptable level, despite the recent moves in the country towards democratic rule.

Therefore, the survey said, the local press's influence on the members of the public does not exceed the average and most people believe there is need for the government to issue licences for more newspapers which can meet the readers' desire to have a variety news reports.

According to the researchers, people interviewed in the survey were chosen at random from Amman, Salt, Zarqa, Irbid and Ma'raq. Answers came from 325 persons of various ages.

The questions enquired about the effects of Al Rai, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaah Arabic dailies.

According to the survey, among those who read the newspapers nearly 73 per cent are interested in home news while 78 per cent read world news.

Ten per cent of the total number of people surveyed do not consider the press as a good source of information.

## Department registers 81% higher revenues over 1990

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land Survey Department has collected JD 2,454,464 in revenues last July, registering an 81 per cent increase compared to the same month last year when revenues reached JD 2,337,954.

The department revenues in July witnessed a 22 per cent increase over revenues in June, the department sources said.



Minister of Information Khaled Al Karaki and his Sudanese counterpart Abdullab Mohammad Ahmad Monday sign a culture and information cooperation agreement (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Sudan sign agreement of cooperation in culture, information

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Sudan Monday signed documents paving the ground for bilateral cooperation in cultural and information fields, in implementation of a 1970 protocol and its executive programmes.

A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the documents signed by Minister of Information Khaled Al Karaki and his Sudanese counterpart Abdullah Mohammad Ahmad cover cooperation in the years 1991, 1992 and 1993.

Dr. Karaki said at the signing ceremony that the two countries attach due importance to deepening cooperation in cultural fields.

The agreement to stimulate bilateral cooperation reflects the deep sense, on the part of the Jordanian and Sudanese peoples, to give further impetus to cultural and cultural exchanges, which, he said, can help the two peoples deal with common issues.

Dr. Karaki said that the ministry of Information and Culture in Jordan was ready to implement the

agreement for the best interests of the Sudanese and Jordanian peoples.

The Sudanese minister thanked the Jordanian government and said that information was a very important tool for serious action to serve the Arab Nation.

The Sudanese minister extended an invitation to Dr. Karaki to visit Khartoum and pursue joint efforts to bolster bilateral cooperation in cultural affairs.

According to Petra, the documents, which contain minutes of deliberations and talks held between the two ministers and senior officials from the two sides, provide for an exchange of radio and television programmes, news materials, school programmes, and for joint production of radio and television programmes. It also provides for exchanges of visits by technicians and specialists in information and culture, for holding joint seminars and workshops and for exchange of booklets and publica-

tions related to information and culture.

Petra said that the two sides had agreed their national news agencies launch cooperation in the field of news reports and the exchange of pictures, and news material. It said that the two sides, had pledged to open cultural centres in Amman and Khartoum to organise the cultural and artistic activities and supervise cultural cooperation and the holding of exhibitions.

The Sudanese minister told Petra that the present circumstances require from Jordan and Sudan to intensify their contacts and increase their cooperation in cultural and informational fields. He said that his visit to Jordan was aimed at consolidating Arab cooperation in the face of common challenges.

Referring to the situation in southern Sudan, he said that it was improving progressively, but did not give further details.

## WHO helps ministry with waste disposal study project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the environment is cooperating with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in conducting a comprehensive study on the management and disposal of solid waste, according to ministry Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani.

A WHO expert is expected in Amman soon to help out with the preparation of the study and with steps to be taken to implement the project, Dr. Bani Hani said in a statement Monday.

Speaking during a meeting with directors of the ministry's various departments to review work in the coming stage, Dr. Bani Hani announced that a Jordanian national environment strategy, which took two years to prepare, would soon be announced in Jordan in the presence of the president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

and Natural Resources (IUCN).

With the completion of the strategy, Jordan will be the third country in the world to work out a national strategy and draw up a special set of principles to be followed in the course of implementing economic and social projects.

According to Dr. Bani Hani, the ministry is now making preparations for the declaration of the national environment strategy which is to be adopted in Jordan in line with specification and regulations defined by IUCN, he said.

The strategy, Dr. Bani Hani said, hinges on two axes: carrying out environmental projects in various sectors and creating appropriate legislations in cooperation with the concerned organisations including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the IUCN fund.

contact with international organisations to invite a group of experts to advise on special legislations on environmental affairs and to work in cooperation with the local experts, Dr. Bani Hani announced.

Dr. Bani Hani said that a special programme had been started to spray insecticides in districts infested with insects and rodents and the programme will be implemented soon.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi last month briefed a visiting UNEP official on cooperation with other government and private institutions in the course of protecting the environment in Jordan.

The minister said that IUCN took an active role in the preparation of the national strategy to help the Kingdom protect the environment and initiate projects for the achievement of that goal.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### LECTURE

★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Nasserism, Authority and Freedom" by Kamal Ahmad, from Egypt, at Abdul Hameed Shoman's Cultural and Scientific Centre — 6:30 p.m.

### Al Fuhels Cultural Festival

★ Arabic poetry recital by Arab poets Abdul Razzak Abdul Wahed, Imzadine Manasreh and others at the festival's site in Al Fuhels City — 6:30 p.m.  
★ Concert by Jordan Radio and Television troupe at the Latin Church in Al Fuhels — 9:00 p.m.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King congratulates Sheikh Zayed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on the anniversary of his assumption of his post. King Hussein wished Sheikh Zayed continued good health and happiness and the UAE people further progress and prosperity.

### NAF helps 557 needy families

ZARQA (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has extended JD 76,394 to 557 needy families in Zarqa Governorate during the past seven months, according to the social development director in the governorate, Ahmad Lafi. Mr. Lafi said the department had allocated JD 11,025 as recurrent aid to needy families, JD 30, 900 for vocational rehabilitation projects and JD 5,077 for physical treatment cases.

### Public holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments, and public institutions will be closed Sunday in observance of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Taher Masri.

### Irsheld meets UNRWA official

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly appointed director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, Adel Irsheld, received in his office Monday Robert Gallagher, coordinator of operations at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Vienna. Mr. Gallagher, accompanied by the director of UNRWA office in Jordan, discussed with Mr. Irsheld effective means of bolstering UNRWA-Jordanian government cooperation in order to promote services for the Palestinian refugees. Mr. Irsheld took over the post from Dr. Ahmad Qatamni.

## Local firm to build dam at Ruweished

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Monday awarded a tender to local construction firm to set up an earth dam at Ruweished, in the eastern regions of Jordan, as part of the ongoing efforts to develop the Hammad Basin.

Under the contract, the local firm will carry out the JD 611,000 project in 12 months. The dam will have a storage capacity of nearly 10.7 million cubic metres of water.

The project, whose designs and studies have been prepared by a local consultancy firm, will benefit agricultural projects as it would provide sufficient water for irrigation and the creation of pasture land for animal grazing.

A statement said that the feasibility study on the project was conducted in cooperation with a foreign engineering firm and under the supervision of the

ministries of agriculture and water and irrigation.

Agriculture Minister Sahbi Al Qasem and the firm's manager signed the contract at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Agriculture.

In his policy statement to Parliament Prime Minister Taher Masri said last month that several dams and agricultural projects would be engineered to boost food production in the Kingdom.

## Jordan Times

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# An Arab-American package for peace

By Jane Hunter

CITIZEN initiatives to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict have long dotted the American political landscape. But now, for the first time, an Arab-American peace plan is receiving a serious attention from the U.S. government and the media, and from Arab governments as well.

The proposal, advanced by James Zogby, executive director of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute, is in tune with some influential voices in the U.S. media that have been urging the Bush administration to add some carrots, sticks and above all clout to its current peace efforts. Mr. Zogby's "Strategic Peace Incentive Package" (SPIP) is, as its title implies, well stocked with carrots. And it calls for the Bush administration to offer a comprehensive peace "package" to Israel and the Palestinians instead of spending its efforts trying to arrange negotiations, the outcome of which is, at best, uncertain.

Mr. Zogby's package is designed to satisfy the maximum concerns of both Israel and the Palestinians. For Israel there would be "specific and detailed commitments of international security guarantees, economic cooperation, defence assistance, normalisation of relations with the Arab states and funds for economic development." Palestinians would be offered "independence with international security guarantees, the ability to

reunite and reconstruct their national community, economic development assistance and recognition of their statehood."

To receive these assurances and benefits, Israel would have to agree to withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. For their part, the Palestinians would have to agree to "a phased plan of implementation leading to final-status negotiations with the Israelis." To make these commitments more palatable, the plan calls for equal amounts from a \$15-\$20 billion "Peace Incentive Fund" to be distributed to Israel and the Palestinians at each specific step in the process. There would actually be two separate funds, one for Israel put together by the U.S., the European Community and Japan, and one for the Palestinians, to which Arab governments and the EC could contribute.

the mainstream of Arab opinion

In late May and early June Mr. Zogby travelled to the Middle East, where he discussed his proposal with the foreign ministers of Egypt and Tunisia, who, he says, were particularly enthusiastic about it. He also discussed the "SPIP" with a number of cabinet ministers in Saudi Arabia, the secretary-general of the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"I found all the Arab leaders I met supportive of the concept

and the details," Mr. Zogby wrote on his return to Washington. "I was told all of it is in the mainstream of Arab political opinion shared by all parties, including Syria and the Palestinians." Mr. Zogby says he was told Arab governments were ready to commit themselves to recognition of Israel and to ending the economic embargo against it, as well as to the peace incentive fund and to negotiations on arms control, water and other regional issues — but "only as part of a package that similarly commits Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and negotiations to implement Palestinian rights and independence."

Arab participation in the peace process would begin when the U.S. sought endorsement of the package by Arab governments and by the U.N. Security Council, whose Resolutions 242 and 338 set forth the principle of land for peace. When everyone is on board, the "SPIP" would be presented to Israel and the Palestinians. When Israel accepted the package, Arab governments would end their state of belligerency with Israel. When Israel withdrew from the occupied territories, Arab governments would announce their acceptance of its legitimacy and permanence in the region. Six months later, after elections to a Palestinian national representative assembly and municipal bodies have been held, Arab governments would lift their economic embargo of Israel. Full diplomatic recognition of



Israel by Arab states would come at the same time the state of Palestine is admitted to the U.N., three years after Israel's withdrawal from the territories. "SPIP" proposes that this final phase would be under the auspices of a conference sponsored by the Security Council and involving direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbours to settle borders, security and Israeli settlements.

Attracting serious attention

Mr. Zogby acknowledges that there are those in the Arab-American community who have

their disagreement with the "SPIP". He defends the proposal's inducements to Israel, saying that the plan "fulfills Palestinian rights" and "deals with political reality" while "eschewing abstract moralising." And, he notes, this is the first time that an Arab-American peace plan has managed to attract serious attention.

On June 4, the State Department invited Mr. Zogby to discuss his proposals at the secretary's Open Forum, a programme for department policy makers. Henry Siegman, the executive director of the American Jewish Congress, one of the largest Jewish organisations in the U.S., shared the podium with him. Mr. Zogby has been popping up on network television and on National Public Radio. To some observers of media behaviour, the respectful way Mr. Zogby is treated by interviewers is significant. It marks a change from the practice of allowing the obligatory Arab representative on media panels to be used as a foil for pro-Israeli accusations.

Mr. Zogby maintains that the Bush administration views the U.S. Congress and Prime Minister Shamir's Likud party as the two major impediments to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, thus the "SPIP" was specifically designed to bypass both institutions. Congress, he quips, "would like to establish a new fund for Israel." But it could do little to block the diplomatic activity envisioned by the

"SPIP". On the Israeli political scene, said Mr. Zogby, Likud is barred by its own constitution from negotiating land for peace. But he continued, the "SPIP" would provide an attractive campaign platform for a peace candidate and put "a clear sense of the trade offs before the Israeli electorate." Israeli peace activists are now getting their first glimpse of the "SPIP".

But two prominent American campaigners for Israeli-Palestinian peace, Gail Pressberg and Stanley Sheinbaum, have already endorsed it. Mainstream Jewish leaders will be harder to win over. At the June 4 State Department forum, Henry Siegman insisted that Arab governments must make unconditional commitments to Israel before Israel is asked to make its own commitments. According to the Washington Jewish Week, Mr. Siegman also insisted that Arab governments must demonstrate their commitment with such concrete acts as ending the trade boycott and withdrawing their support for the 1975 U.S. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Mr. Zogby's response to Mr. Siegman — there are two people who are wounded, not just one, and the needs of both must be addressed simultaneously — is nothing that has not been said before. The difference is that now the response is getting a respectful hearing. — Middle East International, London.

## Absent whips are missed

SINCE its formation the government has been talking about marketing Jordan as a safe investment haven for Arab and international investors by eradicating bureaucracy and institutionalising incentives. The government believes that through larger investments in the country, economic problems and unemployment, the two issues that preoccupy the thinking of our Jordanian citizen today, would be alleviated. On Sunday, the Lower House of Parliament failed to get the government's message. Our deputies failed to forget their need to register what they think is a "nationalist position against imperialism" and vetoed several articles in the investment draft law so they would not "expose" Jordan to dependence on "foreign powers." Instead our honourable deputies took turns to announce their commitment to pan-Arabism, even if it realistically exists only in our minds, and rejected the hegemony of Western investors. In simple financial terms they said "no" to the American dollar and welcomed nothing in its place. In simple financial and economic terms, this patriotic thinking reflects our deputies' inability to comprehend Jordan's economic reality and their reluctance to come down from their political pedestals to earth where the poor and the unemployed live.

What is more ironic and baffling is that only 57 deputies out of the 80-member House showed up for this historic moment, therefore allowing a grouping of 29 members to dictate Jordan's investment policy, all under the umbrella of democracy and democratic practices.

The fact that 23 members — most of whom would have voted with the government — found it unnecessary to attend one of only two weekly sessions of the House serves to indicate that thousands of ordinary citizens who voted in these deputies, and who are most likely poor or unemployed, were not even represented at an important meeting like Sunday's. What is equally difficult to comprehend is that the government which is supposed to have a whip power over its own parliamentary group and other supporters also failed to close its ranks or even rein in cabinet ministers to vote in its favour.

The opposition cannot be faulted for using an economic issue to register a political gain, even though we would have expected them to place the interest of the country above short-term party considerations. But the government is clearly at fault here for not giving a job to a whip or a chief whip who would ensure for the prime minister and his colleagues the passage of legislation that he wants since they have a majority in the House.

The prime minister said in the session that he would not accept blame if the problems of unemployment and poverty are not solved since no-one should expect that Jordan will support itself in and of itself. Based on this the people of Jordan want to know when our politicians and champions of citizen rights are going to realise what the amendments to the draft law will mean in terms of greater unemployment and economic hardships. Jordanians would also want to know whether the government will now have to rely on the Senate to reject what 29 members of the House have passed, and if so why.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Monday discussed the attitude of the U.S. administration with regard to the ongoing embargo on Iraq and the peace process in the Middle East and asked how can the U.S. pretend that it is oriented towards giving people peace and justice at a time when it is starving a whole nation. The United States is allowing the Iraqi women and children to die by tightening the embargo on Iraq and preventing it from acquiring food and medicine for the children and the sick, said the paper. It is unreasonable to think that the U.S. is trying to do justice to the Palestinian people at a time when it is constantly helping the Israelis to consolidate their hold on Arab land, the paper noted. It said that as the U.S. continues to adopt this shameful stand, the Arab and Islamic nations look on without lifting a finger to help the Iraqi Muslim people and without preventing further crimes against the innocent children of Iraq. The paper said that if the new world order is one that is characterised by repression and crime then the world is in for a dreadful end. The paper said that the world community in general and the Arab and Islamic nations in particular ought to take speedy measures to prevent death from claiming the lives of the innocent Iraqi people and stop morales from going down the drain.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily backed the demands of the Petroleum Refinery workers for better pay and working conditions and said that these workers carry out their task under very difficult conditions. Ahmad Al Dabbas said that the workers at the refinery receive less wages than those employed in other public or private organisations at a time when they carry out a very essential job for the national economy. The writer said said refinery management ought to examine the current wave of inflation and high cost of living in Jordan and accordingly decide on a raise for the workers. The writer criticised the management for offering very high salaries to the senior refinery officials while neglecting the basic demands of the small workers who shoulder the heavy burden.

## The healing hope of Iraq

By Mohammad Rashed

THE GULF war was an extraordinary spectacle: a superpower, two major military powers and a host of large, medium and small states waging war against a small Third World country about the size of California, with a population of not more than one fifth that of the U.S.

Iraq, whose military capability was intentionally and grossly exaggerated, was portrayed as a major threat to world peace. In spite of wide support from Arab and Islamic masses, Iraq, besieged and isolated, had to fight alone against overwhelming odds. Never has there been such an unequal contest. Iraq totally defenceless, was pounded mercilessly for several weeks in the greatest air assault in history, its military installations pulverised, its industry and infrastructure destroyed, many of its cities reduced to rubble and its population terrorised.

To ensure continued public support, the conflict in the Gulf was personalised as a struggle between President Saddam Hussein, a devil incarnate, and a law-abiding world led by the saintly President George Bush. The Iraqi people were totally dehumanised; all the carnage, the indiscriminate slaughter of soldiers and civilians and the destruction of a whole country was done in the name of a "just war."

The way the war was conducted leaves no room for doubt that the premeditated and irreversible decision to eliminate Iraq's military and industrial capability, and destroy its advanced infrastructure, was not dictated by the requirements of war but was a long-range geopolitical objective. For Arabs it was a nightmare, as we watched in horrified disbelief the systematic destruction of a precious part of the Arab homeland and the elimination of the one credible deterrent the Arabs had in their conflict with Israel.

It is impossible to fathom the full dimensions of this immense tragedy, for which the Iraqi regime must bear a major share of responsibility. I do not know whether Iraq's leaders realised that they had fallen into a trap and had played right into the hands of their enemies. In the well-orchestrated campaign against Iraq which started immediately after the end of the Iraq-Iran war in 1988, President Saddam was singled out for ferocious vilification in the Western media. False and exaggerated reports about Iraq's alleged nuclear weapons programme were repeated ad nauseam. Stories about a "supergun" and Iraq's use of chemical weapons were taken up with great relish. President Saddam was called the butcher of Baghdad and described as a bloodthirsty tyrant, a successor of Hitler and Stalin.

The U.S. halted food shipments and imposed restrictions on the export of certain goods and materials. It put pressure on private banks and financial institutions to stop Iraq's credit facilities. Many European countries followed suit. The cry went out loud and clear that Iraq's military arsenal was a threat to

the stability and security of the Middle East and had to be eliminated without delay.

This relentless campaign, which continued for more than two years, should have given the Iraqi leaders ample warning. But they allowed themselves to be provoked into actions which gave their enemies just the pretext they had been waiting for, to launch their well-prepared campaign to destroy Iraq.

President Saddam's anger and frustration at Kuwait's apparent lack of understanding and sympathy for Iraq's severe economic difficulties clouded his judgment and drove him to commit the monumental blunder of invading and annexing Kuwait. He should have known that he could not possibly get away with such a blatant act of aggression against an independent state, a member of the United Nations and a major oil producer with enormous investments all over the world. Iraq's historic claims lapsed when the first Ba'ath government recognised the independence of Kuwait in 1963. In spite of unresolved frontier disputes between the two countries, their relations were on the whole friendly, and became very close during the Iran-Iraq war.

What does the future hold for Iraq? A devastating war followed by bloody civil strife has all but destroyed this once prosperous country, the cradle of human civilisation. In spite of the appalling situation prevailing in Iraq today, exacerbated by the punitive conditions imposed by the Security Council which are hindering and delaying the vital work of rehabilitation and reconstruction, the long-suffering people of Iraq cling to the hope that eventually a genuinely democratic government will emerge to guide them towards a better future.

The massive military defeat brought about by gross miscalculations, ineptitude and sheer stupidity should have been enough to bring down the regime. This did not happen because human rights and the welfare of the Iraqi people were not uppermost in the minds of those who have the power to influence the course of events. Iraqis want to make sure that never again will they submit to the rule of dictators or military adventurers. Sooner or later a democratically elected government will be installed. There is no other way if Iraq is to survive.

Such a government will have to give priority to the Kurdish question and the establishment of an autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq. The government will then have to turn to the herculean task of rebuilding the country. A Marshall Plan for Iraq will be needed, with the rich Arab countries as well as the major industrialised countries invited to participate. A large transfer of capital will be required at the beginning but in the end it will be the Iraqi people who will have to shoulder the main burden. Only their sacrifices, hard work and discipline will see the country through the difficult post-

war years. I am confident they will be equal to the tremendous challenges awaiting them.

I hope that the new Iraq will take its rightful place as a free, democratic and progressive member of the family of nations. It will, I am certain, become a full partner in any security arrangements in the region. After this catastrophic war, Iraqis and Kuwaitis should learn to live in peace as good neighbours and resolve their differences in a manner that will satisfy the legitimate interests of both countries. Tolerance, understanding and forgiveness will be required to heal the wounds of the tragic past.

In this war there have been two principal victims, the peoples of Kuwait and Iraq. The Kuwaiti people have suffered much and I understand their feelings of anger and outrage. Their natural desire for revenge, however, should be controlled for the sake of their own future. They and the Iraqis should learn from the example of the peoples of Europe who have shed the bitterness and enmity of past centuries and are now forging a new destiny for themselves and future generations founded on shared values and common interests. The Iraqis and Kuwaitis can do no less.

The people of Iraq cannot be held responsible or accountable for the crimes of the regime in charge. If they help in establishing democracy in Iraq and in restoring to the Palestinians their basic rights, then all will be forgotten and forgiven. Otherwise the hostility most Arabs feel towards the U.S. will continue to fester with incalculable consequences for the stability and security of the region.

Arab members of the coalition must spare no effort to persuade their U.S. allies to deal seriously and without delay with the Iraqi situation and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S. indebted to

them for their support and active participation in the war against Iraq and they should use the reservoir of goodwill they have accumulated to advance the cause of justice and peace in Iraq and in the Holy Land.

They should also remember that, with the elimination of Iraq's deterrent power, they must create a new Arab military capability to ensure the peace and security of the region and defend the Arab homeland against any potential aggressor.

In spite of repeated U.S. and allied statements that the quarrel was not with the Iraqi people but with President Saddam Hussein, the war resulted in the destruction of Iraq while the regime remained intact. Neither the liberation of Kuwait, nor the protection of U.S. interests in the region can ever justify the scale and brutality of the onslaught on Iraq.

When Mr. Bush was elected to the presidency, many Arabs were happy to see the end of the virulently anti-Arab Reagan-Shultz administration. We were hopeful that the new team of Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker would seriously tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict in an impartial, even-handed manner. Whatever goodwill the new administration had enjoyed in the Arab World quickly disappeared as a result of the Gulf war. If the U.S. wishes to protect its long-term interests in the region, it will have to regain the trust of the Arab people. The first important test will be the speed and manner with which the Bush administration deals with the Iraqi and Palestinian situations.

Mohammad Rashed is a pseudonym. He is a former high-ranking official now living in exile. The article is reprinted from The Guardian.

## Shouldn't the Israelis be dancing in the streets?

By Marcus Eliason  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Golda Meir, the late Israeli prime minister, used to say that when the Arabs finally agreed to negotiate face to face with Israel, there would be dancing in the street.

There may indeed be rejoicing come October, if the peace conference proposed by U.S. President Bush becomes a reality and Arabs and Israelis actually sit down to talk face to face. But meanwhile, the feeling is that Israel has begun a long march into the unknown.

After 43 years of hot and cold war, suspicion is an ingrained Israeli trait. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's "yes" to the conference is carefully conditioned, and could become a "no" if he doesn't like the Palestinian

that, say the Israelis, explains why they were so wary of the Arab demand for a full-scale, decision-making conference. They suspected an Arab ploy to keep Israel at arm's length, subject to the dictates of superpowers and U.N. delegates.

Instead, Israelis are promised that the conference will be carefully scripted, last a day or two, and break up into direct negotiations, never to reconvene except with Israel's assent.

Direct talks would be "a big breakthrough" because they would signal Arab acceptance of Israel's existence, says Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "Direct negotiation is not procedure. It's substance. It's recognition."

Beyond the conference itself, the future is murky. Israel is unlikely to yield on the West Bank, which Mr. Shamir sees as part of the God-given land of Israel. It may show some flexibility regarding the Golan Heights of Syria, but subject to stringent demilitarisation.

Its terms for Palestinian representation reflect its overall view of the issue: No PLO, no East Jerusalem Arabs, because that would imply the city is negotiable; none from outside the occupied territories, because that might legitimise the Palestinian diaspora's claim on Palestine that is now Israel's.

As some Israeli officials concede, anything may happen once negotiations get under way.

For Israel, the proof of the Arabs' sincerity will be their willingness to discuss not just the issue of Israeli-occupied territory, but all the other ingredients of peace: Trade, embassies, open borders, shared water resources.

If the Palestinians accept Israel's offer of limited self-government for a three-year period, and use the time to demonstrate peaceful intentions, that too might make Israelis more amenable to giving them the statehood they seek.

Israel has much to gain; it is not full peace, at least detente that will cut its crippling military spending. Another gain would be U.S. and European good will as Israel seeks its place in the new world economic order and absorbs the Soviet immigrant influx.

Egypt, which made its peace with Israel 12 years ago, is playing a key mediating role in bringing the conference into being. The Israel-Egypt treaty ultimately may turn out to be the best precedent for the October peace conference.



## PNC to meet in Algiers

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Baker sought support from President Benjelloun.

The secretary of state also sought support over the weekend in Morocco and Tunisia.

Libya remains on the State Department list of nations that sponsor terrorism, and the United States since 1986 has maintained an economic embargo on that country.

The White House said Monday it would make no "secret deals" to get Israel and Arabs to attend the peace conference, but acknowledged that plenty of contacts were going on between the Middle East and Washington.

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater also told reporters he thought there could be a resolution to the Middle East conflict in the next several months if the peace talks go ahead.

"We have made no commitments on the end product. We have made no secret deals on end results," Mr. Fitzwater said in response to questions about whether the United States was promising anything to participants in the peace conference.

"We have said before we have not made any secret deals. But obviously we've had a lot of secret talks about these things," Mr. Fitzwater said.

"Secretary Baker has been in no-stop private, secret talks if you like, for the last three months to try to get this conference going," he said.

Mr. Fitzwater was questioned about secret talks amid speculation that the United States might entice participants to the peace negotiations with foreign aid or promises of support during the talks. Israel is to ask the U.S. government this autumn for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help settle Soviet immigrants.

The arrangement of a first-ever regional Middle East peace conference now appears to hang on whether the Palestinians will accept the deal Mr. Baker struck with Israel excluding the participation of Palestinians with current ties to Arab Jerusalem.

The proposed compromise between the Israeli and Arab sides is to permit participation by delegates who were born in Arab Jerusalem but no longer live there. They will be included in a delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians from West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Beyond that potential stumbling block, Mr. Baker has stressed that even with Israel and the Arab states agreeing to negotiate, much work remains.

The site of the conference is not set. Israel would prefer Washington, the Arabs want Cairo and the Soviets are likely to lobby for a neutral city, which could be the solution.

More important is what happens once the conference convenes. Israel faces negotiations on two tracks — with the Arab states and with Palestinians.

## The Aga Khan Trust for Culture:

# Revitalising cultural forms

Press release

THE Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), promotes and focuses attention on contemporary expressions in the architecture and planning of the built environment and assists those responsible for shaping it in the future. The trust was created to explore ideas and develop strategies aimed at lessening the damaging impact brought about by rapid change and revitalising the diverse cultural forms and expressions that exist across the Islamic world.

In 1977, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture was set up to address pressing issues concerning the built environment in the Islamic world and to broaden awareness of the vitality of its diverse cultures. Its approach is to promote architectural excellence by encouraging building rooted in good design. Up to \$500,000 in prizes is awarded every three years to winning architectural projects. But the award is more than a prize; it is a process of intellectual inquiry that brings together professionals and scholars from the Islamic world and beyond. An integral part of this process is a regular series of international seminars. Reports of the seminars have been published by the award as well as a series of monographs on architecture.

The award's headquarters in Geneva is also the repository of a growing archive on the built environment.

Grants made to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1979 enabled them to establish the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture.

Its mandate is to educate new generations of architects, planners, teachers and researchers. In 1985 MIT added a masters degree in Design for Islamic Societies to its curriculum. It provides a thorough grounding in the problems of architecture and urban design in Islamic and other non-Western societies. In addition, The Aga Khan Unit for Housing and Urbanisation is situated in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University to study ways to improve the quality of housing and urban structures in developing countries.

In 1988 the trust made two grants establishing Aga Khan Visiting Professorships at the University of Jordan in Amman and the Dawood College of Engineering and Technology in Karachi, Pakistan. Its long-term aim is to encourage regional centres in the Islamic world that meet the highest international standards of architectural education.

The trust's most significant initiative since 1988 deals with the conservation and economic revitalisation of Islamic architectural heritage worldwide. Through direct interventions into the built environment in its Historic Cities Support Programme, the Trust is acting to improve urban life and revitalise historic urban centres. This follows from the award's involvement in restoration projects in Pakistan, Turkey, Spain, Morocco and elsewhere. These projects, as well as the other initiatives are now under the trust's auspices.

Approaching architecture and the built environment within a broad vision of the importance of culture in development, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture fills what was previously a gap in the Aga Khan Network, a group of organisations working for social and economic development in Asia and Africa. Perhaps the best known of these is the Aga Khan Foundation, a private development agency founded in 1967 to provide grants and technical assistance to people, regardless of faith, origin, or political persuasion, who seek fresh solutions to pressing social or environmental problems. The foundation places particular emphasis on health, education and rural development in low-income countries of Asia and Africa. It works closely with the Aga Khan Education Services and Aga Khan Health Services, providers of health care and education in East Africa and South Asia since the turn of the century. A more recent network partner is the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, established in 1984 to regroup manufacturing industries, agricultural enterprises, tourism and financial institutions engaged in promoting sustainable economic development in low-income countries. Founded in Karachi (Pakistan) in 1983, the Aga Khan University is another major institution. It includes a teaching hospital, medical college and school of nursing, and ultimately aims to become the turning point for all network activities in both primary health care and hospital services.



The courtyard of the two-storey Zafrat House constructed in the late 14th century being restored as the Centre for the Historic Studies of Granada and its Kingdom. The slim columns and rounded arches and geometric ornamentation are a good example of Arab Nasrid design characteristic of Islamic Spain.

## Iraq admits it had germ lab

(Continued from page 1)

in attitude since his previous visit.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) Sunday listed several sites the team had visited and said it had travelled north to the Mosul area.

There reportedly is a site near Mosul that still concerns U.S. officials, including Mr. Bush. The team left Sunday and was expected to remain two days, the INA report said.

Mr. Kay was head of the second team that flushed out evidence of a secret uranium enrichment programme — a first step in making a nuclear warhead.

Iraq admitted enriching uranium after that team photographed equipment during an incident in which Iraqi soldiers fired in the air. INA said Sunday that Mr. Kay and his latest team had visited thermal power stations at Al Mussayeb south of Baghdad and Al Dora outside Baghdad.

INA said that Saturday the team had discussed Iraq's uranium enrichment programme with Iraqi scientists.

"The dialogue conducted by the team was very useful with Iraqi technicians giving the team a comprehensive and detailed picture of the goals and dimensions of the enrichment programme and answering in detail queries from the international team members," it added.

Also Monday, Iraqi Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed, again accused the United States and its Gulf war coalition partners of creating obstacles to block medicine from Iraq.

He told the daily newspaper Al Iraq that claims about medicine being used for military purposes were false.

The health minister said the medicine imported through humanitarian and international organisations was insufficient.

Aspin's views

The United States should push for flooding Iraq with United Nations inspectors to see that it abides by U.N. rules against nuclear and chemical weapons instead of trying to oust President Saddam Hussein, a key U.S. congressman said Sunday.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, said on ABC Television's "This Week with David Brinkley" that inspections should be beefed up and inspectors given free rein to root out violations of U.N. rules prohibiting Iraq's development of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

"I think you just flood the country with inspectors, insist on the compliance with U.N. Resolution 687, which is no more chemicals, no more biologicals, no more nuclear, no more missiles," the Wisconsin Democrat said.

## Probe launched into release

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Sick said he had conducted a two-year investigation of the charges and found there was some evidence to support them, although he did not have absolute proof.

One of those involved in the meetings, according to Mr. Sick, was William Casey, a Reagan campaign aide and later director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Casey died in 1987.

Mr. Sick said he had reports that Mr. Bush attended a meeting with Iranians in October, 1980 in

Paris, but did not know if his information was correct. Mr. Bush has strongly denied he was at such a meeting.

Mr. Foley started an informal review of the allegations after they were published and Mr. Sick met privately with several House members.

After repeated efforts by Mr. Carter and U.S. diplomats to free the hostages failed, Mr. Carter approved a military rescue attempt in April, 1980. The mission failed when some helicopters carrying troops broke down in the Iranian desert.



Nawal Al Saadawi

## My life's work written off

By Nawal Al Saadawi

I WAS born in a small village about 100 kilometres north of Cairo. My grandmother was a peasant woman. She spent her life hoeing the black earth. I remember her saying to me: "I would tighten the belt around my belly to hold back the hunger pangs. That's how your father became an educated man."

There were nine sisters and brothers in my family. I got into medical school by obtaining a scholarship for myself. I remember how my father's eyes shone that morning when I told him what I'd done. But one year after I graduated my mother died of cancer, and soon after that my father followed her.

By then I was writing. From the start, writing was like breathing. It was life itself. When other young women and men went out to enjoy the summer nights of Cairo, I sat at my desk and wrote. That is how my brothers and sisters went to college. I divorced two husbands because they wanted me to break my pen and hold a broom instead.

In 1972 three things happened at once. I lost my job at the ministry of health; the Association for Health Education which I had founded, was closed; and the magazine Health, edited by me and my husband, was suspended.

"The authorities said I must not write about politics, religion, or sex. But writing for me was like breathing; how could I stop? So I stayed at home for five years and wrote. At the beginning I was scared. At the end I had become the most widely read novelist and writer in the Arab countries."

In 1980 Doubleday's Mary Brown wanted to publish one of my books. But some important man in the publishing house said: "No, the book is too polemical. We want only the personal side of your life, so edit it and bring it back." I went away, sat down to work, and forgot.

Sometime later a woman friend said: "There's a small publishing house in London called Zed." My husband said: "Why not? I'll send it off." So in 1980 my first book in English, *The Hidden Face of Eve*, came out. Last year it was

in the seventh or eighth edition. I don't remember which.

In 1981 Sadat put me in jail. After he encouraged the fundamentalists, they assassinated him, and three months later I climbed the stairs to our flat and rang the bell.

Meanwhile I was beginning to earn money from my books. A few years later, as I was walking along near Marble Arch with an Egyptian friend, I told her I was thinking of opening a bank account in London. She said: "Close by there is an Arab bank, and many people from the Third World deal with it." I said: "The Third World, that's where I come from," and walked in.

Over the years, little by little, the money flowed in: royalties from my books, money from articles or radio programmes on the BBC, from films still to be made, or other work. For now I had 27 books, 15 translated into English, nine into more than 12 languages.

You see, I write eight hours a day, sometimes more, almost never less. My mind is full of images and dreams, my blood is hot.

For the first time in my life I

felt more secure. My savings were there in the bank, and my children had grown up. My son, now 26, had passed his engineering studies with honours, but he wanted to make films from an early age. He had done work as an assistant, but he needed to study more, and the money was there in the bank for him to go to the National Film School or somewhere else. At the age of 60 I could begin to relax, travel and sometimes enjoy myself, after a long haul, a very long haul.

But that morning I remembered the telephone rang. I picked up the receiver and somebody was saying: "Have you read the newspapers? They're liquidating our bank. Our money is gone, or frozen, or something like that." I could not understand what he was talking about or relate to it.

Later people kept saying to me: "You know that's life." Somehow I find it difficult to submit. It has always been like that. I do not believe you can take away my life's savings, even if you are the Governor of the Bank of England or a few millionaires playing around with an Arab bank. The Guardian.

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## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

## Monaco recaptures league leadership

PARIS (R) — A last-minute goal by Liberian striker Georges Weah gave Monaco their fourth victory in as many matches to recapture the lead in the French first division Sunday. Monaco were back to the top of the table after being temporarily displaced by Marseille Saturday when the French champions won 2-1 at Rennes. Christophe Robert put Monaco, last season's league runners-up and French cup winners, ahead after 23 minutes. Cameroon striker Francois Omam-Biyik equalised in the 47th minute. Weah's fifth goal this season made Monaco the only side with maximum points. Marseille is second, one point behind. They left Cannes fifth from the bottom with only two points after four matches.

## Yugoslavia to play without Crboats

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia have omitted three regular Croatian players from their squad for a soccer tournament in Italy this week, team officials said Monday. Midfielder Zvonimir Boban, striker Davor Suker and goalkeeper Drazen Ladic, all of Hask Gradjanski Zagreb, were not included after Croatian sports authorities advised all athletes from the republic not to compete in Yugoslavia. "I intended to call them in but I don't want to make life difficult for anybody," said coach Ivica Osim. "Let's not make a big fuss about it all. We'll see what the future will bring." Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25, the move triggering bloody inter-ethnic clashes in the republic in which more than 200 people have died. Italian club sides Genoa and Lazio are competing along with the Czechoslovak national side in the four-team tournament which begins Wednesday.

## Sampdoria beats Arsenal in final

LONDON (R) — Italian champions Sampdoria edged out English counterparts Arsenal despite having a player sent off in a stormy final and won the Makita four-club soccer tournament for the second successive year Sunday. Sampdoria striker Renato Buso, who scored four goals in his team's 6-1 drubbing of West Ham Saturday, was ordered off for elbowing Arsenal skipper Tony Adams after 55 minutes. Ten-man Sampdoria, already 1-0 down following an 18th-minute effort by Paul Merson, hit back with a brilliant goal from star striker Gianluca Vialli in the 70th minute to send the final into a penalty shoot-out. They won the shoot-out 3-2. Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov criticised Buso's dismissal. "There was a clash of two players in the air. I don't think my player deserved to be sent off," he said. "Both players went in with maximum force. It was an athletic clash. These things happen." Greek champions Panathinaikos won the third-place play-off, beating English first division West Ham 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw.

## Jahangir Khan beaten in squash

ADELAIDE (R) — Jahangir Khan, surprisingly beaten in Sunday's final of the World Squash Open Championship, said Monday a band of professional referees should be employed to lift the standard of officiating. The Pakistani, 27, beaten in an epic four-game battle by Australia's fifth-seeded Rodney Martin was highly critical of New Zealand referee Chas Evans. Martin, 25, won his first world title 11-17 15-9 15-4 15-13, in a tense match marred by several physical clashes which resulted in the calling of a high number of lets. Jahangir said the International Squash Players Federation (ISPA) should speed up a plan already being considered to create a band of professional referees travelling the world circuit.

## Gomez wins third U.S. pro title

BROOKLINE, (AP) — Andres Gomez of Ecuador won his third U.S. pro tennis title with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over top seed Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union. The victory, following championships in 1986 and 1989, was the most recent triple win since Bjorn Borg completed the feat each year from 1974 to 1976 at Longwood Cricket Club. Gomez, 31, the seventh seed, took advantage of Cherkasov, who had played a rain-interrupted semifinal that began Saturday evening and did not conclude until noon. Cherkasov outlasted No. 5 Jimmy Arias 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-4, two hours before the match against Gomez. Gomez got a decisive opening set break when Cherkasov hit long on a pair of forehands to lose the 12th game. Gomez won 14 of 19 points in taking a 3-0 lead in the concluding set and both players held serve to complete the sixth consecutive U.S. pro title to be decided in straight sets. The victory earned Gomez \$50,000, while Cherkasov got \$25,000.

## Perez-Roldan wins in San Marino

SAN MARINO (R) — Guillermo Perez-Roldan, aiming to climb back into the tennis top 20, beat Frenchman Frederic Fontang to retain his San Marino Open title. The top-seeded Argentine dismissed unseeded Fontang 6-3 6-1 in the final to claim the seventh title of his career. Perez-Roldan, ranked 14th in the world earlier this year, had slipped to 33rd at the start of the San Marino tournament. He was forced to pull out of the final of a tournament in Munich in April with damaged knee ligaments. Fontang, virtually unknown outside France before the tournament, upset number two seed Jordi Arrese of Spain in the second round. Fontang did not drop a set until the final.

## Soviet player joins Dutch club

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch first division side FC Groningen have signed Soviet international defender Andrei Zygmantovich from Dynamo Minsk, the club Monday. The 28-year-old, who has made over 30 appearances for the Soviet Union, has signed a one-year contract. The transfer fee was not disclosed.

## Capriati knocks Seles from Number 1 spot

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — After finally putting to rest rumours about why she skipped Wimbledon, Monica Seles has something new to worry about — Jennifer Capriati.

The 15-year-old Capriati defeated Seles 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 Sunday to win the \$225,000 Mazda Classic and knock the Yugoslav native from the No. 1 ranking. It was Capriati's second defeat of Seles in two weeks and first ever in a sanctioned tournament.

"I think I'm definitely a little closer (to being No. 1)," Capriati said. "This gave me confidence." Seles and Capriati last met two weeks ago in an exhibition at Mahwah, New Jersey, where Capriati won 6-3, 7-5. Seles had prevailed in both of their previous four matches.

Capriati only has a learner's permit to drive, but had no trouble testing her prize, a special-edition car, on the roads at the La Costa Resort and spa.

"She was perfect. With a stick (shift), too," said her father, Stefano, who went along for the ride.



Jennifer Capriati

at least one month respectively. Seles, making her first tour appearance since her well-publicized and mysterious withdrawal from Wimbledon, came to the end of the No. 1 reign that she held since March 11.

Inheriting the top position will be Steffi Graf. But because she won't play this week because of a shoulder injury, Graf will yield the top spot back to Seles after a week.

Still, Seles said, it figures to be a tight race for No. 1. The rest of the year among Graf, Gabriela Sabatini and herself.

"Being No. 1 is great," Seles said. "I'm going to try to get it back. I still have a long way to go until the end of the year. It's a very close struggle."

"Jennifer played a great match today," said Seles. "We're both fighters. It was a great match. Neither of us wanted to let it go."

## Sampras wins first title since U.S. Open

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pete Sampras, fine-tuning his form to defend his U.S. Open title later this month, won his first championship since the open, beating Brad Gilbert in three sets late Sunday at the Volvo Tennis Tournament.

Sampras, the second seed, defeated fourth-seeded Gilbert 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3 in two hours and six minutes.

"It was important for me to win today for my confidence," said Sampras, who had been sidelined much of the year with injuries. "I'm in Los Angeles makes me happy."

Sampras, 19, grew up in suburban Los Angeles and now lives in Florida.

The match featured big serves by both players, with Gilbert notching 10 aces to Sampras' nine. After losing the first set, Gilbert came back in the second, jumping out to a 3-0 lead. Sampras broke back later in the set to narrow Gilbert's lead to 4-3. Both held serve the rest of the way.

In the tiebreaker, the two traded points until Gilbert capitalized on two unforced errors by Sampras to even the match. "I started playing better in the second and I got unlucky in the third," said Gilbert, who turns 30 next week. "I was coming in more and I couldn't work myself in. He was hitting very hard and I couldn't get any rhythm."

Gilbert advanced to the final with a three-set upset of Stefan Edberg, who was slowed by tendinitis in his knee.

Sampras broke Gilbert to go up 2-1 in the first set and went on to

win the last three games. He lost only five points on his serve and aced Gilbert on set point.

Gilbert said Sampras' powerful serve continues to be his best weapon.

"He's going to get aces because he's like a guy that throws a curve when you're not looking for it," said Gilbert. He has a hard serve to read because it comes quickly out of his hand.

With three weeks until the U.S. Open, Sampras said he finally feels prepared to defend his title.

"I'm healthy and I'm more experienced," he said. "My confidence is up and I'm ready to go to the open."

## Brazil beats U.S. in Pan Am women's basketball

HAVANA (AP) — The U.S. women's basketball team can stop counting — after seeing its 42-game winning streak in major international competition snapped at the Pan American Games.

Brazil beat the Americans 87-84 in the preliminary round Sunday.

"We're not stunned, we're mad," said the American star Theresa Edwards, whose team still can advance to the medal round. "I think our actions will speak louder than our words," she said in vowing to win the gold.

The world's most dominant international amateur team had been beaten, and Brazil rejoiced at the final buzzer as its coaches streamed onto the floor, and the pro-Brazil crowd of Cubans cheered wildly.

"How would you feel if you beat the world champions and the Olympic champions?" asked the

champions in their attitude, and every one of them will be that much more determined."

The U.S. team got off to a 26-8 lead, but saw that cut to 26-22 after the Brazilians scored 14 straight points with Hortencia Marcani, their star player and a Brazilian Playbook centerfold, on the bench in foul trouble.

"When Hortencia was out was when they made their run, which speaks to our mental state," Stringer said, complaining that the team lacked intensity and concentration, especially on defense.

Brazil trailed 45-40 at halftime, but took a 52-51 lead when Marta de Souza, who led the Brazilians with 24 points, hit a jumper from the right corner midway in the second half. Edwards' driving layup put the United States behind 85-84 with 19 seconds left, but instead of fouling immediately, the U.S. team let the Brazi-

lians tick off 12 seconds before Edwards fouled out in an effort to regain possession.

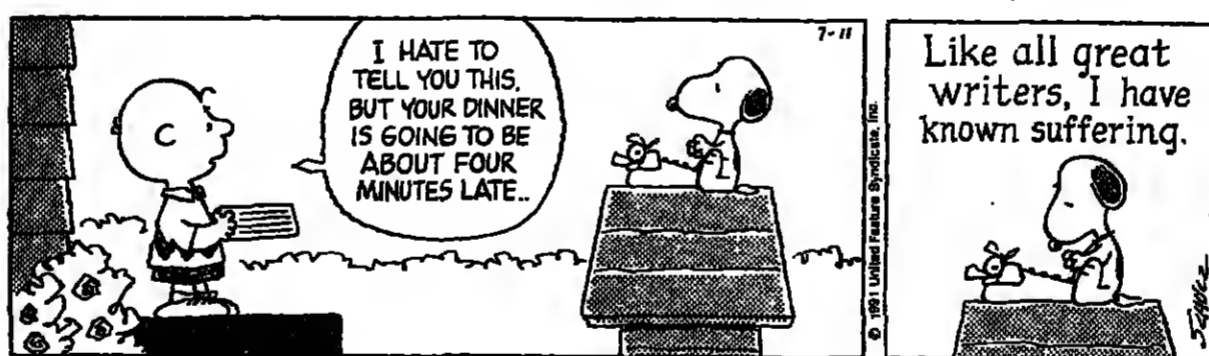
Maria da Silva made one of two free throws with seven seconds left, and Hortencia capped it with another free throw three seconds later.

Edwards led the Americans with 20 points. In other events Sunday, U.S. Kayaker Mike Herbert gained a gold medal and a unique place in history as the man who got Fidel Castro to salute the American flag.

Castro stood at attention in his olive green fatigues, his right hand raised to the bill of his cap when the U.S. anthem was played, but Herbert didn't even look at him.

"I had my eyes on the flag," said Herbert, a 30-year-old who beat Cuban Angel Perez by nearly four seconds to win the 1,000-metre single kayak.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 6, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Other configurations indicate that it is best to accept nothing at face value today and to be sure to deliver carefully into every phase of what ever arises to be sure your understanding it.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You now would be wise to pay every single bill, tax or obligation that faces you and to look into arrangements for having more money soon.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You have it in your power to gain the good will of those about by in some way entertaining or showing them you are truly devoted to, want them to be happy.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are uncertain about some project you have to do but if you will adopt a new attitude towards it and give more attention to behind scenes preparation.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You can have some very happy social moments now if you avoid letting that feud between an attachment and a friend flare up.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Your family should be kept in the background now while you do show you are the one who has it in his/her power to make big headway in the outside world.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) This is certainly the moment for you to show you have the openminded attitude to accept the

best of what those about have to offer for new opportunities.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have such an ability at near touch and fine finish that now is your time to put onto motion some highly precise and ingenious plan to impress experts.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You are very much concerned just what partners are doing and you may not see things their way but you can make much headway by through promises you have made.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A day to get much done and not to let any feeling that you have been imposed upon keep you from making some big advances in your favour.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind that has to do with a good time is all right if you don't tell a jealous acquaintance who could put a crimp in it.

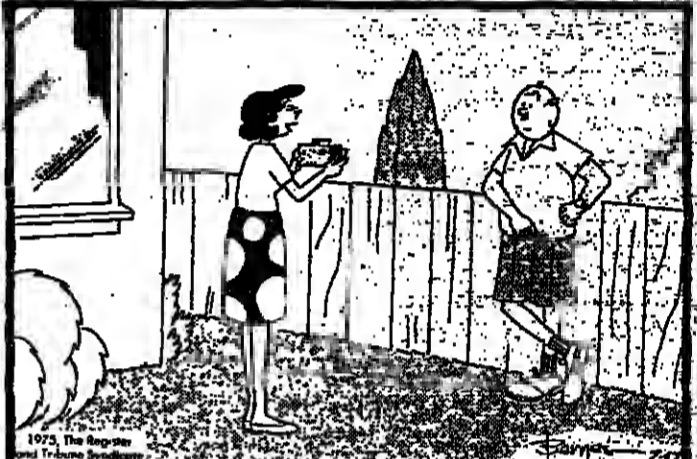
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) This is your time to make certain that you do hold steady to some new type of arrangement that pleases your family even though you do especially like it.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Whatever brings you the most effective way to handle usual problems of a routine nature is excellent right now so think them out completely.

## I have one sincere friend, my birth stone.

World Resources - DeJani & Co. Inc. Amman, Rio De Janeiro, Amman, Amman Hotel, Rio, Brazil.

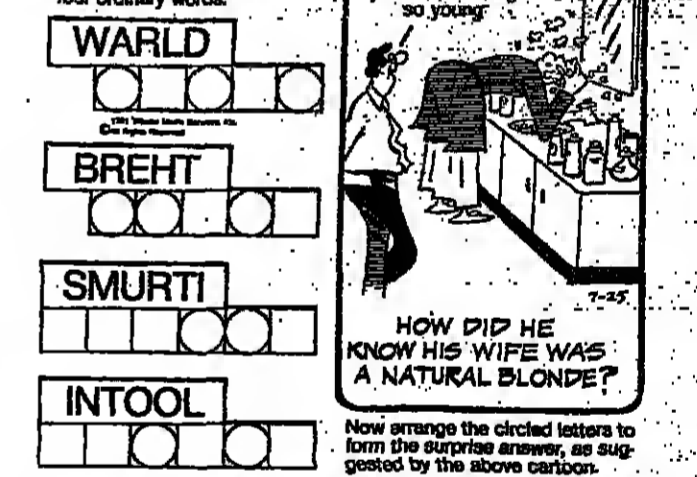
## THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"I have an ideal. Where's that teddy bear you won at the shooting gallery?"

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: IT SO ON THE (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KHAKI - ADULT - JETNEY - MYSTIC  
Answer: When a group of friends began playing cards on the plane, they agreed that THE SKY WAS THE LIMIT.

## THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hirsch Jr.



# Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSING	10:00 EST.
Sterling Pound	1.6850	1.6850
Deutsche Mark	1.7405	1.7405
Swiss Franc	1.5150	1.5150
French Franc	5.9145	5.9145
Japanese Yen	137.20	137.20
European Currency Unit	1.1150	1.1150

**European Currency Unit**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.61	5.81	6.00	6.25
Sterling Pound	10.21	10.81	10.75	11.62
Deutsche Mark	16.21	16.18	16.11	16.20
Swiss Franc	2.22	2.16	2.11	2.10
French Franc	3.27	3.10	3.04	3.11
Japanese Yen	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
European Currency Unit	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

**European Currency Unit**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.61	5.81	6.00	6.25
Sterling Pound	10.21	10.81	10.75	11.62
Deutsche Mark	16.21	16.18	16.11	16.20
Swiss Franc	2.22	2.16	2.11	2.10
French Franc	3.27	3.10	3.04	3.11
Japanese Yen	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
European Currency Unit	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.67	0.68
Sterling Pound	1.07	1.08
Deutsche Mark	1.74	1.75
Swiss Franc	1.51	1.52
French Franc	5.91	5.92
Japanese Yen	137.20	137.21
Dutch Guilder	0.53	0.54
Swedish Krona	0.10	0.11
Italian Lira	0.02	0.03
Belgian Franc	0.19	0.20

**Other Currencies**

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7860	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	0.0750	0.0770
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Omani Rial	0.1860	0.1865
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2180
Omani Rial	1.7500	1.7600
UAE Dirham	0.1860	0.1865
Greek Drachma	0.3500	0.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

**CAB Index for Amman Financial Market**

Index	3/8/91	Close	4/8/91	Close
All-Share	109.91	109.36	109.36	109.36
Banking Sector	104.49	104.48	104.48	104.48
Insurance Sector	119.24	119.13	119.13	119.13
Industry Sector	115.21	115.36	115.36	115.36
Services Sector	127.36	127.32	127.32	127.32

**LONDON EXCHANGE RATES**

One Sterling	1.6915/25	U.S. dollar	1.1495/1500
One U.S. dollar	1.7360/70	Deutsche mark	1.9545/55
	1.5115/22	Dutch guilder	35.76/80
	5.9050/9100	Swiss franc	129.71/298
	137.15/25	French franc	6.7760/10
	6.2950/3000	Italian lire	6.7150/7200
	137.15/25	Japanese yen	355.30/355.80
	6.7760/10	Swedish crown	
	6.7150/7200	Norwegian crown	
	355.30/355.80	Danish crown	
		U.S. dollars	

## Gorbachev orders fast production, importation of consumer goods, food

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has ordered an immediate increase in production and importation of food and consumer goods in his first major step toward a market economy since meeting world leaders last month.

In allocating foreign currency and credits, the trade and finance ministries should emphasize importing grain, medicine and materials or equipment needed to make goods for mass consumption, President Gorbachev said in a decree the TASS news agency published Sunday.

The decree also urges republics to barter goods and services to help supply their populations. It calls on the cabinet of ministers to adjust tariffs to encourage imports of consumer goods in wide demand, while limiting imports of luxury goods.

The decree says the national cabinet and the governments of the 15 republics should "actively carry out a policy of privatisation, de-monopolisation, and development of entrepreneurship" to boost production of consumer goods.

In particular, Mr. Gorbachev recommended more rapid creation of "a market infrastructure," including trading houses, exchanges and auctions.

The decree, dated Saturday but not made public until Sunday night, was issued under special economic powers the Supreme Soviet legislature granted the president last year.

In the past, his orders often have met resistance from the republics, which claim the right to control their own natural resources and economic policies.

Soviet consumers suffer chronic shortages of many everyday items, ranging from cheese to glass bottles. Inflation has soared, and the Soviet equivalent of a gross national product dropped 10 per cent in the first six months of this year.

As with many of his past decrees, Mr. Gorbachev's latest edict contained few details. It will be up to the republics and the national cabinet, led by Prime

## Egypt takes charge of BCCI affiliate

CAIRO (R) — A government administrator took control of Bank of Credit and Commerce (BCC) Monday.

BCCM's board was dissolved by the central bank Sunday. Officials said Abdul Ghanem Gami, head of Egyptian American Bank, would run BCCM under central bank supervision to protect depositors.

The BCCM is 49 per cent controlled by Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The other 51 per cent is owned by Egyptians. An unknown amount of its deposits abroad have been frozen by foreign government actions against BCCI.

When news broke in early July that assets of the Luxembourg-based BCCI had been frozen in

## Jordan's debt repayment to Soviet Union stalled

By Robin Agarwal  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Repayment of roughly \$108 million of Jordan's total debt to the Soviet Union has been stalled as a result of political and economic uncertainty following the end of the Gulf war.

The second of three bilateral protocols between Jordan and the Soviet Union was supposed to have been signed in March this year. However, the signing has been delayed indefinitely as Jordan struggles with new financial uncertainty.

"On our side, we have no idea what is going on," admitted Soviet Commercial Attache Yevlanov. "Although we're preparing for negotiation on the second protocol, nothing much will happen at least until the end of September."

Nonetheless, the debt remains. The protocols allow Jordan's debt to the Soviet Union — about \$150 million — to be repaid in Jordanian-made consumer goods and phosphates rather than currency. Most of the debt was accumulated between 1984 and 1987.

The first protocol, which was

signed on March 5, 1990, was for \$42 million worth of Jordanian products, according to Ibrahim Badran, undersecretary at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. \$22 million was to be repaid in phosphates, with the remaining \$20 million in consumer goods.

However, in late April 1990, the Soviet Union requested a restructuring of this ratio of phosphates to consumer goods. The result was a \$8 million transfer from phosphates to consumables. Jordanian companies that benefited from the transfer were all companies hardest hit by the Gulf war, according to one ministry official.

With two notable exceptions, nearly all of the first protocol contracts for consumer goods have been met on schedule. According to figures from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, less than 23 per cent of the total \$3.2 million refrigerator contract and less than 38 per cent of the total contract for gas cookers were actually exported to the Soviet Union during the specified period. The ministry expects that both contracts will be fulfilled this year.

"We are trying to multiply our efforts to compensate for losses (incurred by Jordanian businessmen) during the Gulf war," Dr. Badran said. "But it is premature to say when we might recover completely because of the inertia of the economic machine."

Jordan continues to run a trade deficit with the Soviet Union. Recent statistics released by the Ministry of Industry and Trade to the Jordan Times put exports to the Soviet Union at \$14.94 million for the year ended Nov. 30, 1990. Imports totalled \$18.4 million.

Shampoo and natural phosphates topped the list of exports in 1990, both at about \$1.28 million. Natural fibre men's wear (\$87 million) and perfumes (\$887,000) also were major exports to the Soviet Union.

"In the longer term, I expect that Jordan will eventually run a trade surplus with the USSR," said one ministry official. "They're a country of 280 million people, and that market presents an enormous opportunity."

"We have a very good chance to increase trade with the Soviet Union," agreed Dr. Badran.



Ibrahim Badran

"We produce the kind and quality of the goods they demand." Last November, the Ministry of Industry and Trade established a permanent commercial corps in Moscow to assist and advise Jordanian exporters as well as Soviet businessmen. Jordanian trade delegations also have stepped up efforts at consumer shows held in the Soviet Union.

"We can no longer rely on Jordan's traditional markets — the Arab countries — for our products, even though that would be more natural," Dr. Badran said. "We need to look beyond them for new markets."

## Merger of Jordan Gulf Bank, Al Mashreq Bank under study

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A merger of the Jordan Gulf Bank with Al Mashreq Bank — both now operating under the direct control of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) — is under serious consideration but no final decision has yet been taken on the issue, banking sources said Monday.

CBJ-appointed committees are "assessing the actual situation of the banks — in terms of assets and liabilities — and until and unless the process is completed no decision can be taken," said a well-informed source.

But, added the source, "there is a strong argument in favour of a merger of the two banks since prudent banking instincts dictate that a unified entity will emerge much stronger than either of them standing on its own."

The Jordan Gulf Bank and Petra Bank, another troubled Jordanian institution, were taken over by the CBJ under an order

by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in August 1989 with the objective of merging the two. But the financial status of Petra Bank did not permit its resurrection, and the ESC reversed its merger order in April 1990. While Petra Bank was ordered liquidated, the 20 branches of the Jordan-Gulf Bank with a total staff strength close to 500 continued its operations under the supervision of a CBJ-appointed panel.

Several former officials of the Jordan-Gulf Bank face charges in a military court which is trying Petra Bank cases.

An official source said the preliminary finding of an investigating committee was that the Jordan Gulf Bank "is salvageable since it did not suffer as much as Petra Bank."

Informed banking circles said the Central Bank had pumped in around JD 25 million to keep the Jordan-Gulf Bank floating since its take-over while it had injected

over JD 200 million into Petra Bank before the ESC order to liquidate it.

"There is no shortage of funds at the bank, and there is a strong argument among banking circles against liquidating it," said one source. "The funds that the CBJ sent to the bank in its capacity as the lender of the last resort could be recovered from the bank in due course of time..."

Senior executives at leading Jordanian banks agreed. According to Maher Al Waked, executive director of the Bank of Jordan who is familiar with the situation at the Jordan Gulf Bank, "the wisest course for Jordan Gulf is a merger with another Jordanian bank."

"The situation of Jordan Gulf is good, and there does not seem to be any need for liquidating it," he told the Jordan Times without elaboration.

The four branches of Al Mashreq, an originally Lebanese-

owned bank, were brought under the direct control of the central bank in October 1989 following a Lebanese court order for liquidating the Beirut-based bank.

Negotiations between a group of local businessmen and the central bank for the sale of Al Mashreq's Jordanian branches remain stalled over questions related to sharing the bank's loss.

All banks and financial institutions operating in Jordan are subject to the banking regulations of the Kingdom, regardless of ownership, whether Jordanian or otherwise.

"The Jordanian operations of the bank are continuing normally and most of the legal issues related to the Lebanese ownership of the bank have been settled," said a banker close to the affairs of Al Mashreq. "A few insignificant details remain to be sorted out, but there is no major problem," he said, preferring anonymity.

## Saudis to build smelter to recycle car batteries

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Three Saudi firms plan to build a smelter to produce lead from scrap automobile batteries which are now being dumped in the desert or exported illegally, the head of the project has said.

Abdul Aziz Al Sahil, chairman of the newly-formed National Lead Smelting Co. Ltd. (Rasass), told Reuters the 50 million riyal (\$13.3 million) plant was expected to begin operating about 20 months after construction begins in September.

He said three privately-owned Saudi firms — The National Industrialisation Company (NIC), Al Baraka Investment and Development Co., and Al Sihri Lead Company — would take equal stakes in the plant along with Germany's Metallgesellschaft A.G., represented by its subsidiary Berzelius.

The owners will provide 30 per cent of the factory's paid-in capital while the Saudi Fund for Industrial Development will cover 50 per cent of the cost with an interest-free loan.

Commercial banks will finance the remaining 20 per cent of the project, the first of its kind in the Gulf region.

Mr. Sahil said the Riyadh plant would be able to produce 12,000 tonnes of lead a year from 20,000 tonnes of scrap batteries.

He said this would encourage car dealers to stop dumping batteries in the desert, where up to 6,000 tonnes of sulphuric acid a year could seep into the desert soil, or exporting them to unscrupulous dealers in southeast Asia. Both steps are banned in the kingdom for environmental reasons.

Mr. Sahil said Rasass would soon begin purchasing the batteries from the Saudi market. They would be recycled to produce hard and soft lead, polypropylene and sodium sulphate.

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**AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION: INVITATION FOR BIDS TENDER NO. 5/91**

1. The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of multi mode transport project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply of permanent way materials for track renewals.

2. Aqaba Railway Corporation now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of rails, sleepers, fastenings and other permanent way materials. The materials are required for carrying out complete track renewal for 10.4 kilometres of track between El-Hasa and Ma'an in Jordan.

3. Interested eligible bidders from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan, China, may obtain further information from the office of Aqaba Railway Corporation, P.O. Box 50, Ma'an, Jordan (Telex No. 64003ARC JO).

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 160.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 5 per cent in accordance with clause 15, page 10 of the instructions to bidders and must be delivered to the Aqaba Railway Corporation on or before 1200 hours (local time) on 15 October 1991.

Aqaba Railway Corporation  
Director General  
H.M. Krishan

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Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

## New fighting erupts in Croatia after EC peace mission fails

**BELGRADE (AP)** — New fire-fights were reported Monday in the separatist Republic of Croatia, punctuating disappointment over a failed European peace mission.

Yugoslav media reported that fighting broke out late Sunday near Split, a major Adriatic port, in eastern Slavonia near the border with rival Serbia and in central Croatia.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in any of the fighting.

Croatia and Serbia, Yugoslavia's two largest republics that are traditional rivals, traded accusations of blame for the collapse of the European Community peace effort.

But the leader of an EC peace mission laid the blame at Serbia's door and left Belgrade Sunday, warning "tragedy and catastrophe" loomed.

"The outside world definitely has the right to know" that the talks broke down because of the Serbian delegation's stubbornness, said Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek. He spoke upon his return to Amsterdam after heading the three-man mission for two days of talks with top Yugoslav leaders.

The collapse of the EC peace efforts reduces the chances of averting large-scale battles between the 9.8 million Serbs and about 5 million Croats.

Scores already have died in Serb-Croat clashes and fighting between Croats and the army since Croatia declared independence June 25.

Fighting in Croatia stems mostly from disputes between Croats and the Serb minority that makes up about 12 per cent of the republic's 5 million people.

The Serbs claim discrimination and many are haunted by the memory of the mass killing of Serbs by Croatia's Nazi puppet regime in World War II. Croats accuse Serbia of seeking to dominate Yugoslavia and keep it Socialist.

Many ethnic Serbs in Croatia want their own rule, or to join the Serb Republic.

Croatian forces have been pushed out of areas of the republic, leaving Serb militias and the army in control. The Croats appear to have suffered the worst casualties.

They accuse the federal army of helping the Serbs. The army says it steps in only to separate the two sides.

Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister who was a member of the EC delegation, told the British Broadcasting Corp. that European leaders would continue to look for a solution.

"European ministers should take the lead in putting forward some new solution, as we did in Kurdistan when we set up in northern Iraq the protection camps," he said. "It was a humanitarian intervention which was not foreseen in any charter or in any legal frame."

The mayor of the eastern Croatian city of Osijek, on the edge of an area where the Serb militias have been attacking in recent days, renewed calls for European military intervention.

"Europe's answer to Serbia's intransigence should be a military one," said Mayor Zlatko Krizanec. He described the failure of talks over the weekend as "a slap in the face of Europe by Serbia... whose leadership is now in a triumphant mood."

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported that fighting broke out near the town of Skradin in southern Croatia, about 30 kilometres north of Split.

Both Croatian TV and the army reported fighting between

Croatian forces and the federal military, but no casualties were listed by either side.

Croatian TV said the fighting broke out when Croatian police took control of an abandoned army buffer zone. Tanjug said the army responded with mortars, cannons and infantry weapons.

Tanjung said residents of the nearby towns Obrovac, Zelenograd and Krusevo fled because of the fighting.

Tanjung also quoted the army as saying it was attacked in eastern Croatia near the town of Belo Brdo, just east of Osijek. Radio Belgrade also reported fighting in Podravska Slatina, about 80 kilometres east of the Croatian capital Zagreb.

At least three Croatian policemen were reported killed Sunday.

Serbia and its allies refused to attend a meeting of the EC ministers with the federal presidency Sunday.

Stipe Mesic, the Croatian chairman of Yugoslavia's federal presidency, told the Associated Press: "Serbia is to blame for the failure of the mission because it doesn't want... the crisis internationalised and doesn't want the world to see what it is doing."

## Disbanding Communist Party cells to take months — Yeltsin aide

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Indicating expected stubborn opposition from Communist hardliners, a Russian Republic spokesman said Monday that party cells in Russia's factories and offices will not be fully disbanded until the end of the year.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree seeking to remove politics from the workplace in the Soviet Union's largest republic formally took effect Sunday, but his government was in no hurry to enforce it.

"Now we are working out the mechanisms of fulfilling" the decree, Mr. Yeltsin's press secretary, Pavel Voshchanov, said in an interview. "By the end of the year it should be fully implemented."

Several workers interviewed Sunday on Russian TV's nightly newscast said there had been no move to do away with Communist Party cells in their workplaces.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported just only 10 per cent of the factory managers in Leningrad, the second-largest Soviet city, have issued orders to carry out Mr. Yeltsin's decree.

For decades, the Communist Party maintained offices in almost every factory, government agency, academic institution, hospital, newspaper and state-run business throughout the Soviet

Union. These "cells" held regular meetings, controlled key personnel decisions such as hirings and promotions and at the height of their power controlled every management decision of the school or workplace.

The party has lost much of its power and prestige, including its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power, during Mikhail Gorbachev's six years of reforms.

Party cells have already disappeared from many businesses. In the past 18 months, Communist Party membership nationwide has fallen by 4.2 million, to 15 million. Nearly half the members are in the Russian Federation, by far the largest and most populous of the 15 Soviet republics.

Mr. Yeltsin's July 20 decree requires cells to be disbanded in Russia and forbids activity by any political party in the workplace during business hours. It clearly was aimed at the Communist Party and does not affect trade unions.

Mr. Gorbachev told the party's policy-making Central Committee last month that he would take whatever measures were necessary, including a presidential edict, to cancel Mr. Yeltsin's

order. But he did nothing to prevent the decree taking effect as scheduled Sunday, and the two men have continued to cooperate closely on national issues such as negotiating a new union treaty to bind the republics together in a looser federation.

The decree also calls for national legislation to remove party cells from the army, KGB, supreme court and the prosecutor's office, which Mr. Yeltsin acknowledged were outside his jurisdiction.

**Gorbachev on vacation**

Mr. Gorbachev has left for his annual summer vacation in the Crimea, a resort peninsula in southern Russia, TASS announced Monday.

The one-sentence item said Mr. Gorbachev left Moscow Sunday, but gave no other details on his trip.

Mr. Gorbachev usually takes about a month's vacation in August.

The Soviet leader cut short last year's holiday to address soldiers in nearby Odessa about the Gulf crisis, then returned to Moscow ahead of schedule to tackle the country's worsening economic problems and political disintegration.

## COLUMN

### Purse snatcher gets the chop from karate woman

**CAIRO (R)** — An Egyptian karate expert felled a thief with a well aimed chop after he snatched her purse, a Cairo newspaper reported Monday. Al Ahram said Azza Magdy Farag, 25, holder of a karate black belt, chased the purse snatcher, knocked him down in a brief fight and then hauled him off to a police station.

### Queen mother turns 91

**SANDRINGHAM, England (AP)** — Queen Mother Elizabeth quietly celebrated her 91st birthday Sunday with her daughter, the queen, at the Royal Sandringham estate in Norfolk, eastern England. As the queen mother left the Sandringham Parish Church after morning services, the organist played a few bars of "happy birthday to you," into the professional, sending the small and smiling queen out to waiting well-wishers with a flourish. The church was packed with local residents and estate workers who joined the rector in wishing the queen mother "a very happy day." There was more applause as his words were broadcast to a crowd outside. About a thousand people, many of them children with bouquets, waited in the sunshine outside to greet the queen mother, the widow of King George VI, who reigned during World War II. Queen Elizabeth II gave her mother a hand down the stairs. The only other family member there was Viscount Linley, son of Princess Margaret, the queen mother's younger daughter. After last year's extended 90th birthday celebrations, the queen mother asked for a low-key celebration.

### 10-year-old helps with delivery of baby sister

**KANSAS CITY (AP)** — When 10-year-old Johnathan Carter says he wants to be a doctor when he grows up, he's got an idea of what's involved — he's already helped deliver a baby. Johnathan was getting ready for bed Friday when his mother, Mary Carter, went into labour, three days before her due date. He led his mother to a couch, then called an ambulance. "He was really upset and was crying when he called," said dispatcher Connie Guerrero of the Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust. Ms. Guerrero told Johnathan to check if he could see the baby's head. He yelled back "it's coming, it's coming," she said. "I then told him to calm down because 'you and I are going to deliver this baby.'" While his mother pushed, Johnathan carefully gripped the emerging baby and pulled. "It was very exciting," he recalled later. It was over within six minutes of his call, but Johnathan was worried. "The baby didn't cry when I pulled her out," he said. "She just looked at me." But Janessa Eboune Ariel Carter was just a quiet newborn. When paramedics arrived, they found Johnathan already had carefully wrapped his sister in a towel, and she was being held by their mother. "He had done the work already," paramedic Susan Cox said. Johnathan proudly wears a yellow T-shirt that says he delivered his sister at 10:55 p.m. Aug. 2. "I'm going to wear this shirt for two weeks non-stop," he said.

### China running out of names

**PEKING (R)** — China, the world's most populous country with about 1.1 billion people, is running out of names. The official China Daily reported that there were so many cases of duplicated two- and three-character names — such as Deng Xiaoping — that parents were adding a fourth character to give their children some individuality. Zhang Xiao, a schoolgirl, was frustrated after running into two other Zhang Xiaos in her school alone. Her parents came up with a solution by re-naming her Zhang Yang-Shi-Yi. The newspaper reported: "In the northeast province of Shandong, there are now more than 2,800 people with four-character names, the newspaper said. The new-style names have won praise because 'they sound more rhythmic and carry richer overtones,'" it said. There are also enough of them to go around. "Experts say the four-character names would provide the Chinese with 27-billion choices if 3,000 common characters are employed," the China Daily said.

## Philippine guerrilla army chief captured in Manila

**MANILA (R)** — Philippine police captured the chief of the Communist guerrilla New People's Army (NPA) and his wife at a Manila hospital Monday, police said.

Romulo Kintanar was having a medical check-up at the Makati Medical Centre in Manila's financial district when police arrested him, Colonel Percival Adiong said in a radio interview.

Mr. Kintanar and his wife, Gloria Jopson, were surrounded by about a dozen policemen when they were brought out of the hospital in handcuffs and driven to a suburban police camp, a Reuters reporter on the scene said.

Mr. Kintanar was arrested in an ophthalmologist's clinic on the third floor of the hospital, hospital staff said.

Mr. Kintanar had been previously captured by the military but escaped from detention in 1989.

The NPA, military arm of the banned Philippine Communist Party, has been fighting for 22 years to establish a Marxist state.

As NPA commander in chief and member of the party's Central Committee, Mr. Kintanar carried a bounty of one million pesos (\$33,700), the military said. A reward of 500,000 pesos (\$17,850) was offered for his wife.

"We have been on his heels for some time. This is a blessing from the Lord," said Col. Adiong, one of the officers commanding the unit that carried out the arrest.

Mr. Kintanar was the 10th guerrilla officer captured by the military and police in raids on rebel hideouts in Manila during the past two weeks.

Reporters asked the rebel leader what his name was and he whisked him into a waiting van. "Kintanar," he told them.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department will ask former first lady Imelda Marcos and her children to respond to tax fraud charges filed by the government last week, the government announced Monday.

The "task force investigating the cases against Mrs. Imelda Marcos, her three children and in-laws has found out that there is sufficient grounds to proceed with the formal inquiry," Acting Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello said.

The preliminary investigation corresponds to a grand jury probe and could conclude with the task force asking a judge to issue an indictment and arrest warrants.

Last Thursday, the government filed 11 tax fraud charges against Mrs. Marcos, two against her son, Ferdinand Jr., and youngest daughter, Irene Araneta.

The charges were filed one day after President Corazon Aquino lifted a government ban that has blocked the family of the late President Ferdinand Marcos from returning from exile.

Mrs. Aquino, however, refused to allow the return of the remains of the former president. Mr. Marcos died in Hawaii in September 1989, three years after a popular revolt toppled his 20-year rule and installed Mrs. Aquino as president.

## U.S. report sees record homicide toll this year

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. homicide toll is headed again this year to a record level, fueled by drug wars, rising gangland violence and the spread of assault weapons, according to Congress.

A key Senate committee issued a report Sunday predicting that 23,700 Americans will die a violent death before the new year begins, marking an increase of 260 over last year's record.

Sen. Joseph Biden Jr., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, blamed the carnage on what he called the "three Ds."

They are "drugs, and the mayhem caused by hard-core drug addicts and dealers; deadly weapons, particularly the easily available military-style assault weapons; and demographics, fueling a growth in violent teenage gangs," said Sen. Biden.

The Judiciary Committee staff, which based its predictions on the homicides during the first six months of the year with some adjustments, found that the risk of being murdered in America has doubled over the past 30 years.

To counteract the rise in killings, Sen. Biden is urging the passage of pending legislation for a waiting period for handgun purchases, and a ban on military-style assault weapons.

He said drug addicts also "must be forced off the street and into jails, prisons and drug treatment centres" because they fuel the deadly cocaine market, and police patrols should be increased to combat gang activity.

Richard R. Bennett, professor

of justice at American University here, agreed that crack cocaine's arrival several years ago spurred a dramatic increase in homicides in larger cities. But he said drug tests on suspects, among other things, indicate the problem is subsiding.

Killings will continue, however.

"At any given time in any society there are going to be a number of homicides. Two people or more get involved in an altercation, and they resolve it through homicide," Bennett said, adding that he believes "what we're seeing is chance fluctuations."

Indeed, while 21 U.S. states are showing an increase in homicides, 18 others are showing declines and 11 states plus the District of Columbia are staying virtually the same, the report noted.

In Michigan, where the Judiciary Committee staff predicted the number of slayings would drop by about 120, down to 850, Detroit Police Sgt. George Anthony said even the experts don't know what is causing their decline.

Detroit reigned as the nation's murder capital before relinquishing that dubious distinction to Washington, D.C. a few years ago.

Meanwhile, in Texas, where the report predicted an increase of about 300 murders — more than the United States as a whole is expected to see — "we're all pretty mystified as to why it has become so violent," said Ruth Post of the Houston Police Department.

## China blames the West for juvenile delinquency

**PEKING (R)** — China blamed the West for juvenile delinquency Monday, saying that pursuit of values such as freedom and democracy led to spiritual ruin.

"The capitalist system itself is the warm bed of juvenile delinquency," thundered a signed article in the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily. "The unrelenting rapacious pursuit of money and the collapse of social morality are the deep roots of juvenile crime."

Entitled "The whole society comes together to care for and save the lost youth," the article was written by Kang Shien, 76, head of the Chinese committee to care about the next generation and a standing committee member of the official Central Advisory Commission.

Since the Chinese army crushed a student-led pro-democracy movement in June, 1989, China's elderly leaders have stood fiercely on guard against the encroachment of Western values.

"The capitalist system just cannot be compared with the superiority and moral excellence of socialism," Mr. Kang said.

"Some youth blindly worship the so-called 'freedom' and 'democracy' of the West and chase after a Western bourgeois lifestyle, their thinking empty and their spirit decadent."

Mr. Kang had strong criticism for the Communist Party, saying it had failed in its education work.

Even within the Communist Party, he said, some people had urged the pursuit of money and individualism, resulting in an "unbridled lust for pleasure and

greed for wealth pursued by whatever means, until they fall into the morass of crime."

**U.S. complains to China**

Meanwhile, the United States has officially complained to China about not informing U.S. officials of the arrest more than a month ago of an American businessman, Hong Kong government radio said Monday.

The businessman was being held in the southern city of Canton after being arrested in May for alleged economic crimes, the radio said.

The man, who was not named, had yet to be formally charged. The radio quoted U.S. officials as saying they were not told of his detention for more than a month, in contravention of a Sino-U.S. consular agreement saying the United States should be informed of such arrests within four days.

American diplomats in Hong Kong said they had no information on the case. U.S. consular officials in Canton were not immediately available for comment.

The man was being visited regularly by embassy officials, the radio said.

Chinese authorities refused Monday to confirm a Hong Kong report that police have arrested a dissident journalist who spent 20 months in jail for his alleged involvement in the 1989 democracy movement.

The Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post reported Monday that Zhang Weiguo, 35, was arrested last Tuesday at a relative's home in a village in the eastern province of Zhejiang.

## Germany urges EC sanctions against Serbia

**BONN (R)** — Germany's foreign minister urged the European Community (EC) Monday to impose economic sanctions against Serbia which he said had blocked a Yugoslav ceasefire pact.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher said on German radio the leadership of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia and its allies in the federal collective presidency bore full responsibility for the failure of an EC peace mission Sunday.

"It has to be made clear to the Serbian leadership that this behaviour meets with absolute rejections by the international community," he said.

The EC mission left Yugoslavia after Serbia and its allies boycotted a joint meeting of the EC ministers and the collective Yugoslav presidency to try to work out an EC-backed ceasefire in rebel Croatia.

Mr. Genscher has requested an emergency meeting of EC foreign ministers to consider further steps by the Community to bring peace to Yugoslavia, where Serbia and the Serb-led federal army are resisting moves by Croatia to become an independent state.

Mr. Genscher said recognising the sovereignty of Croatia and Slovenia, whose independence declarations on June 25 triggered the latest crisis in the country, was "one of the alternatives the EC will consider and review very carefully."

"Another is that a Serbia which rejects a ceasefire, rejects the appeals of the international community, cannot count on economic cooperation or help from the European Community."

"On the contrary, after already breaking off economic cooperation with Yugoslavia, we must look at which sanctions, including economic sanctions, can be adopted against the responsible republic, in this case Serbia."

## Passengers say crew abandoned sinking Greek ship

**EAST LONDON, South Africa (AP)** — Passengers from a Greek cruise ship that sank in stormy seas claimed Monday the crew abandoned the vessel while there were still hundreds of people on board.

South African Air Force officials said four people remained to be accounted for from the liner Oceanos, which sank in mountainous waves Sunday just off the shore. Air Force Maj. Gerrie Evert said 578 people had been rescued.

Search operations were continuing, but the missing four may be on two ships that helped in the rescue but had not been contacted, officials said.

"We haven't seen any bodies in the water," Mr. Evert said. Transport Ministry officials were investigating claims many of the crew were among the first to abandon the ship.

Passengers claimed crewmembers took the ship's only two motorised lifeboats, leaving passengers to try and launch the unpowered lifeboats.

"They left us in the lurch. They knew... that the ship was going to sink and didn't say a thing," said passenger Kevin Ellis. "All the crew who knew how to oper-

ate lifeboats had gone."

Stephanie Hankinson, the ship's photographer, said the crew's departure created panic.

"They left and there was a total state of panic because nobody else knew how to let the lifeboats down," she said.

Employees and entertainers of the South African Tour Company that rented the Oceanos reportedly took over, launching lifeboats and helping people who were winched up by helicopters.

Capt. Yiannis Avranas defended his decision to leave the ship, saying it was necessary to direct rescue operations from shore.

"I don't care what these people say about me. I am separated from my family, who were rescued by one of the other ships and I lost my own ship — what more do they want," he told reporters.

Transport Minister P.J. Welgemoed told state television his department would investigate a report of a bomb threat against the ship.

"People just jumped into the sea when the ship started to go over," he said.

One man was rescued after 10 hours in the water, 13 kilometres from where the ship sank, said Air Force Maj. Andres Steenkamp.

Military officials said they did not know why the ship began taking on water, but that its proximity to shore suggested it may have hit a large rock or a reef off the country's notoriously dangerous "wild coast."

The ship foundered when its engine room was flooded and began listing heavily after it was battered by waves up to 7 metres high and winds gusting at up to 140 kph.

The captain said a piston in the engine room burst, knocking a hole in the hull.

Harbour control in East London received a telephoned bomb threat directed at the ship Friday night, about 24 hours before the vessel began taking on water, police said.

Police Maj-Gen. Johan Rust said police went to the investigate, but were denied access by ship Capt. Avranas. Gen. Rust said ship security officials reported they had found no evi-

dence of a bomb.

Ship officials denied that Capt. Avranas would not allow authorities on board to search.

The last people on board were rescued at midday Sunday — nearly 12 hours after the ship encountered trouble, and only 90 minutes before it sank.

At least 15 military helicopters airlifted more than 200 people off the Oceanos, Evert said, and more than 300 were pulled from the sea or from life rafts.

Planes dropped life preservers to people in the water, he said. Many were saved by three merchant ships, including an oil tanker, that rushed to the scene.

The 7,554-ton Oceanos 150 metres long and 20 metres wide — was carrying mostly South African passengers, with a crew of Britons, Greeks, Egyptians, Hungarians and Mauritians.

The ship had left the Indian Ocean port of East London Saturday on the return leg of a Durban-Cape Town-Durban cruise. It sank off Coffee Bay, part of the Transkei black homeland 130 kilometres northeast of East London.